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Poetry.

BABY WITH THE DEEP BLUE EYES.

Baby with the deep blue eyes,
Soul with outward nature linking,
Looking up in mild surprise,
How I wonder what you're thinking!

Life to you is but a dream;
Your life—a brook's faint, primal flowing;
Things around that merely seem
Will grow real with your growing.

Could I fathom your sweet mind—
Catch the thought with feature playing;
If I could one fancy bind
Ere it pass in sleepland straying,

I should know a mystery,
Hidden close in God's strong keeping,
Greater than the changing sea
Or the blue above it sweeping.
—Henry A. Jeffries.

A DISGRUNTLED BROTHER.

Stranges' worl' I ever see!
Take a patch er groun',
Buil' a shanty, plant a tree,
Dey'll tax you out er town!

Hard worl', believers
(Now I talkin' fac's);
No use mo'nin' fer de dead—
De dead doan pay no tax!

Stranges' worl' I ever meet—
Full er cur'ous tricks;
Every time dey paves a street
You foots de bill fer bricks!

Hard worl', believers.
Doan you know dat's fac's?
No use cryin' fer de dead—
De dead doan pay no tax!

Ain't no worl' you'll ever fin'
Give sich cur'ous dish;
Make you buy de fishin' line,
Den charge you fer de fish!

Hard worl', believers.
Ain't I talkin' fac's?
No use mo'nin' fer de dead—
De dead doan pay no tax!
—Atlanta Constitution.

A QUERY.

"Love," she said, "will some one tell me
What it is and what it means,
Whether friendship or affection,
Whence it comes and what it means?

"Please define it." No one answered,
But each woman there who heard
Felt her own heart leap responsive
To the magic of that word.

Felt her whole soul warm and widen
Till it touched the far-off spheres
Where time is not, and the angels
Number not the days and years.

And a swift and sudden sadness,
Thrilled with sweetness through and through,
Swayed her like the wind-kissed rushes,
Could she answer if she knew?

Love! Who lives that dares define it?
Whose the pen or whose the tongue
That could voice but half its meaning?
All the sweet songs ever sung.

All the poems ever written,
Since though blossomed out of space;
All the wisdom of the prophets
Could not half its meaning trace.

Every secret of our being—
All that is in heaven or earth—
Mysteries of men and angels
In that little word had birth.

Love! Why should we care or question?
Let us analyze the stars—
Strip the white wings from the angels,
Telephone across to Mars.

Count the motes within a sunbeam,
Follow where the four winds blow,
But leave love untouched, unquestioned.
Feel, but never seek to know.
—Lischen Maude Miller.

Miscellany.

A ZEALOUS OFFICER.

Tim Donovan is now a sergeant on Topeka's police force, says the Capital, and he has gained that position through hard work and strict attention to duty. Here is a story which the boys tell on this popular officer: One morning about 1 o'clock Tim left the little brick building on the corner of Fifth and Jackson streets, and started for his home. Just as he reached his gate he heard

"TIM TOOK THE COW IN CHARGE."

an awful sound. He started and reached for his gun, and when he discovered that the cause of the disturbance was a stray cow, Tim was mad.

After allowing his anger to cool, he stepped forward and took the cow in charge. The officer wanted her to go with him to the pound, but "bossy" objected, and voiced her protestations by bellowing lustily. Once at the station Tim told a fellow officer to take her in charge and hold her in the pound until she should be ransomed by her owner.

Tim then went home and slept the sleep of the just. The next morning, however, there was an awakening in both senses of the word. Tim awoke from his slumbers and to the fact that the family cow was gone.

Every "blue-coat" was notified of Tim's loss and for two days the "eagle eyes" of the policemen were opened for a trace of the cow. Tim had described her perfectly, and at the end of the second day one of the force announced that he had discovered the missing bovine. Tim was jubilant over the recovery of his property, but threatened vengeance dire on the thief. He finally said:

"Where is she?"

"Why," was the answer, "she is the one you put in the pound the other night."

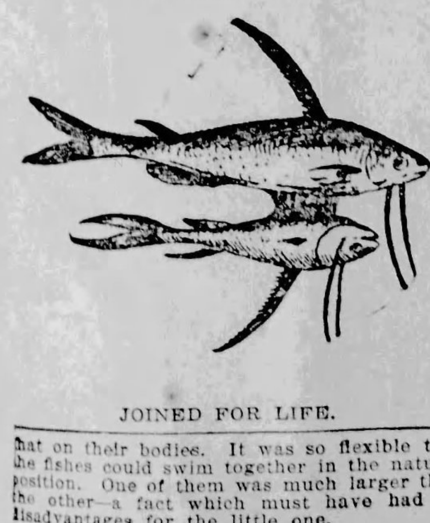
It was true, and the zealous Tim had to put up $2 to get her out, and of course the boys had to be bribed with a box of cigars to keep the secret.

Hereafter, Tim will look at the cow.

FINNY SIAMESE TWINS.

Here are two catfishes joined for life in a Siamese-twin fashion. They were caught at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, in North Carolina.

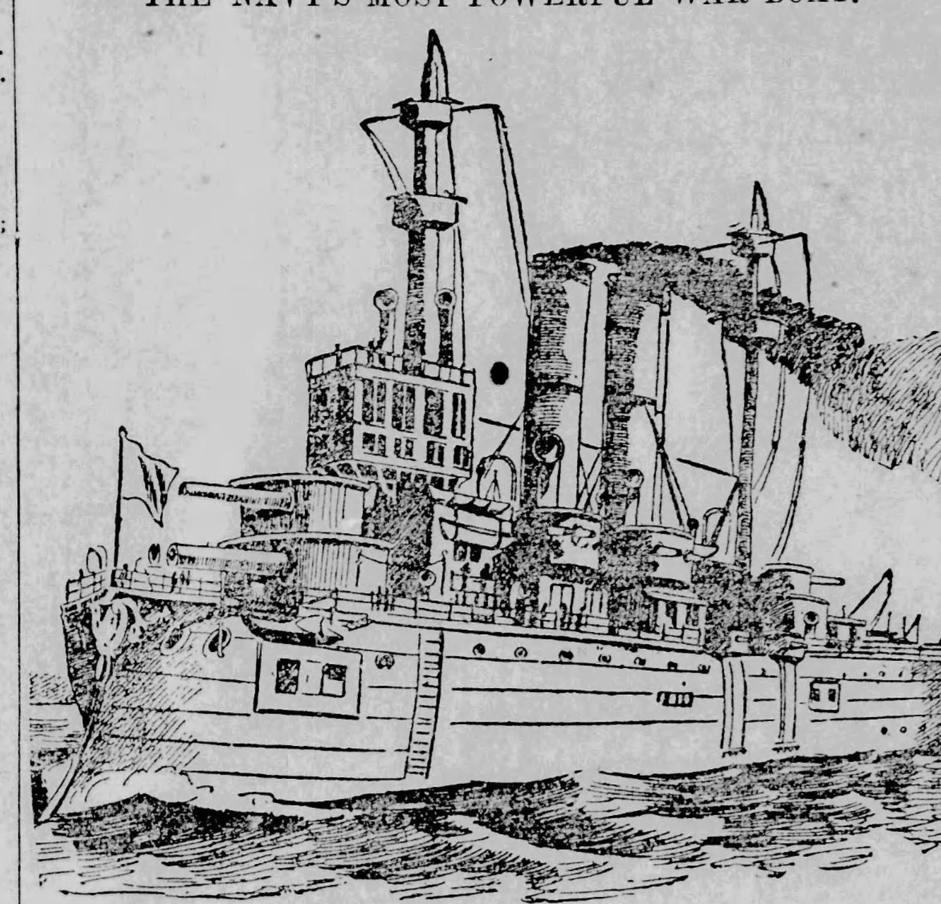
The skin which joined the fishes on the breast was not particularly different from



JOINED FOR LIFE.

that on their bodies. It was so flexible that the fishes could swim together in the natural position. One of them was much larger than the other—a fact which must have had its disadvantages for the little one.

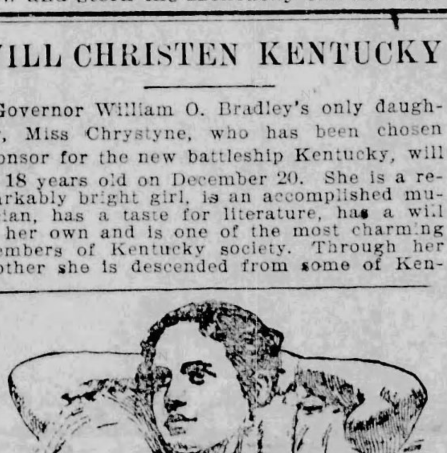
THE NAVY'S MOST POWERFUL WAR BOAT.



The new United States battleship Kentucky, now fast nearing completion in the shipyards at Newport News, will be the most powerful war boat in the navy. The date of its launching has not been decided upon, but when Miss Christine Bradley, of Kentucky, breaks the bottle of champagne on the Kentucky's forehead there will be no more destructive piece of machinery afloat than the new American ship. The Kentucky is one of four sister ships, all of which will soon be finished. The Kentucky bears on her forward and after deck a double turret. Each of these turrets carries two 13-inch guns. No European power has placed on the deck of a warship any gun more than 12 inches. Thus can the Kentucky strike a blow with which the power of no other warship can compare. A single blow of this kind would disable if not sink the strongest ship of battle afloat. From bow and stern the Kentucky can fire simultaneously a 13-inch gun. The Kentucky will draw only 25 feet of water, three feet less than the lighest boats now on the sea. She will be able to sail into all the harbors, and can be docked with less difficulty than the three other boats now building. The "waist-fire" consists of 14 5-inch quick-firing guns and the second-batteries will be composed of 20 6-pounder rapid-firing, six 1-pounder and four machine guns. Two military tops, mounting guns, complete the ship's armament, which is far heavier than that of any ship of the Kentucky's displacement in the world. No warship can deliver more metal at a broadside than can the Kentucky, and none will have the ready concentration of fire. The feature of the Kentucky is the form of her turrets, which is quite new. There is a large saving in weight, which gives the boat more room for heavy armament and more powerful machinery for propulsion. She will carry 1,210 tons of coal, which will enable her to steam 6,000 miles at the rate of 10 knots an hour.

WILL CHRISTEN KENTUCKY

Governor William O. Bradley's only daughter, Miss Chrystyne, who has been chosen sponsor for the new battleship Kentucky, will be 18 years old on December 20. She is a remarkably bright girl, is an accomplished musician, has a taste for literature, has a will of her own and is one of the most charming members of Kentucky society. Through her mother she is descended from some of Kentucky's first families, including the Robertsons, Letchers and McKees—statesmen, jurists and soldiers. She is handsome and is popular all over the state.



MISS CHRYSTYNE BRADLEY.

It was on account of this popularity that she has been chosen for the high honor of christening the great battleship.

ACCOMODATING CLOTHIER

I suppose a great many people have wondered whether one-legged men bought shoes by the pair, observes a writer in the Atlanta Journal.

This reminds me of the enterprise of an Atlanta clothing man who, it is said, has never been known to acknowledge that he didn't have anything a possible customer might ask for. One day a customer entered the store and asked if he had any trousers made especially for one-legged men. "Certainly," replied the merchant. "What kind do you want?" "Dress pants," said the man. "The best you've got." Hurrying into the rear of the store, the enterprising merchant snatched up a pair of trousers and snipped off the right leg with a pair of shears. Hastily

"WELL, GIVE ME A PAIR WITH THE LEFT LEG OFF."

turning under the edges, he presented them to the customer.

"That's the kind I want. What's the price?"

"Fifteen dollars."

"Well, give me a pair with the left leg off."

A month later the merchant was pronounced convalescent and on the high road to recovery.

PROBLEM FROM LIFE.

To Be Solved When the Occasion Presents Itself.

He begged a kiss. She frowned meditatively.

"A kiss," she cried, "is an expression of sentiment. Placed upon the hand it signifies respect; upon the forehead, friendship; upon the lips, both—and more, or neither. Since you have asked it, you may express yourself in one kiss. Proceed."

He hesitated.

Through respect and friendship love may be reached. If he were too bold she ——. He hesitated. He gazed down into the grass and pondered swiftly. He tried to read her mood. He would place that one kiss upon her ——.

He heard a trill as of many birds.

He looked up.

She was whistling softly.

Her hat was pulled down to her eyes, covering her forehead, and her hands were thrust deep into the pockets of her jacket.—Detroit Free Press.

The Point of View.

"An old bachelor," said the sweet girl, "is a man who confesses that he does not think he is smart enough to take care of any one but himself."

"To my mind," said the mean man, "he shows that he is too smart to take care of any one but himself."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

M'KINLEY'S FIRST LOVE

Happily Married in Michigan and the Mother of Two Daughters.

But for the opposition of her parents a woman who is now the wife of Thomas McMoug of Big Rapids, Mich., would have become the bride of him who is now President of the United States, says the Chicago Chronicle. Away back in their golden youth William McKinley and Lydia Wadsworth met and loved in Poland, O. The girl was then but 16 years old, very pretty and with a host of admirers, for in those days courtship began early in the middle states.

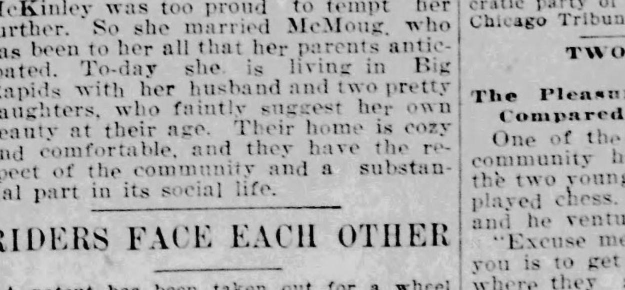
Young McKinley was the favored suitor, but met his Waterloo when Lydia's parents were consulted. To the shrewd eye of old John Wadsworth McKinley was not yet well enough off in worldly goods, and with the view of breaking off what in reality was a boy and girl atachment, he forbade his daughter to meet the young man. This was, of course, a mistake. The young folks

met clandestinely, and before long whispers of contemplated elopement reached the ears of Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth.

Among the girl's admirers was a young man named Thomas McMoug, a steady and desirable youth, who had found more favor in the old folks' eyes than in those of the girl. The parents decided that their daughter should at once wed this young man. There was a stormy scene. The girl vowed she would have the man of her choice or none, but in the end she yielded. She promised, and from that moment her parents knew their case was won. She was too honorable to go philandering with any young man other than the one to whom she was pledged, and McKinley was too proud to tempt her further. So she married McMoug, who has been to her all that her parents anticipated. To-day she is living in Big Rapids with her husband and two pretty daughters, who faintly suggest her own beauty at their age. Their home is cozy and comfortable, and they have the respect of the community and a substantial part in its social life.

RIDERS FACE EACH OTHER

A patent has been taken out for a wheel built like a single one, but with a seat in front of the handle bars. The front rider



MORE SOCIABLE THAN A TANDEM.

faces the occupant of the regular seat and works the same pedals as the rear rider. The pedals have two foot rests, one above the other.

Knew What It Was.

"Every man has his vice," said Tenspot to Tenterhook, who was fond of offering unsought counsel to his acquaintances.

"What is my vice, pray?" asked Tenterhook.

"Advice," replied Tenspot, unhesitatingly.—Detroit Free Press.

Never Touched Them.

Jay Ceede—How was it th' frost didn't hurt your garden stuff?

Reuben Oats—My wife planted it, an' th' rows wuz so gol durned crooked th' frost couldn't hit 'em!—Up-to-Date.

HE WAS A GENTLEMAN.

One of the quondams of the treasury department, whose name is still to be read on some of the treasury notes, is a facetious individual and rather given to joking, but, adds the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, unfortunately, he belongs to that class whose jokes generally end in being "one on him." This, Mr. X. does not appreciate, however; he is a bumptious personage with an exaggerated idea of his own importance, and it would never occur to him that any one could presume to make sport of so exalted a creature.

Not long ago Mr. X. went into one of the uptown hotels for a shave, and when the barber was through with him squared himself around for a talk.

"Say, Bob," said he to the knight of the razor, "do you know a gentleman when you see him?"

"Know a gen'leman? Co'se I knows a gen'leman," responded Bob.

"Well, I want you to understand that you are talking to a gentleman right now, a real gentleman, a thoroughbred, no make believe, no sham, but a gentleman, sah, through and through, one of the finest gentlemen in these United States, sah. D'ye hear?"

"Yes, sah," answered the barber, not without some inward amusement.

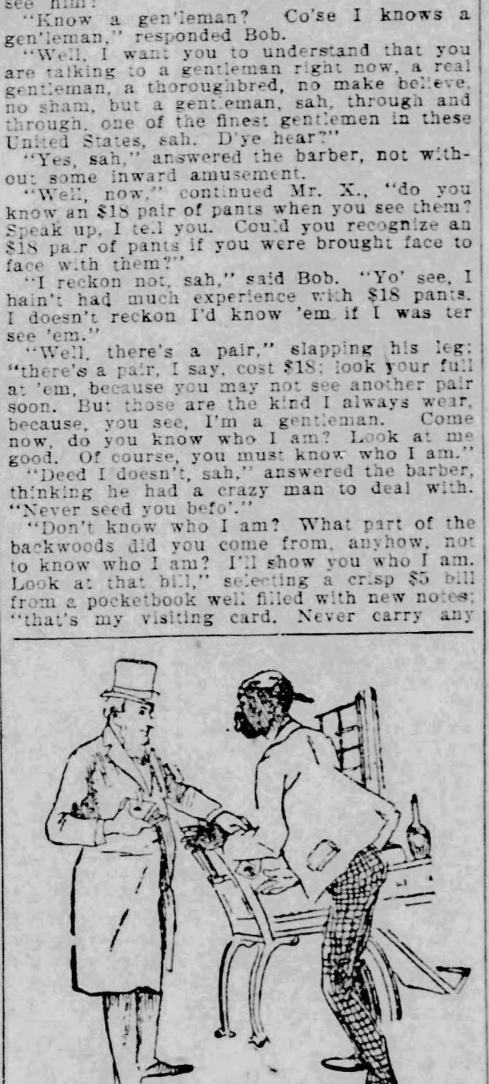
"Well, now," continued Mr. X., "do you know an $18 pair of pants when you see them? Speak up, I tell you. Could you recognize an $18 pair of pants if you were brought face to face with them?"

"I reckon not, sah," said Bob. "Yo' see, I hain't had much experience with $18 pants. I doesn't reckon I'd know 'em if I was ter see 'em."

"Well, there's a pair," slapping his leg; "there's a pair, I say, cost $18; look your full at 'em, because you may not see another pair soon. But those are the kind I always wear, because, you see, I'm a gentleman. Come now, do you know who I am? Look at me good. Of course, you must know who I am."

"Deed I doesn't, sah," answered the barber, thinking he had a crazy man to deal with. "Never seed you befo'."

"Don't know who I am? What part of the backwoods did you come from, anyhow, not to know who I am? I'll show you who I am. Look at that bill," selecting a crisp $5 bill from a pocketbook well filled with new notes; "that's my visiting card. Never carry any



"JUST TAKE FIFTEEN CENTS OUT FOR MY SHAVE."

other. Take it, read it, and tell me, then, if you know who I am. Now, do you believe I'm a gentleman?"

The delighted darkey took the bill.

"Dun knowed it all along, sah; yo' looks like a gen'leman, yo' acts like a gen'leman, yo' is a gen'leman, and this yere bill is sure 'nuff proof. Can't keep yo' out o' nowhar when you throw 'round visiting cards like this."

"Well," said the self-styled gentleman, "if you've found out who I am, just take fifteen cents out for my shave and give me back the change from that bill, will you?"

The poor barber's face fell as he reluctantly counted out the change, but Mr. X. unconsciously presented him with a bonanza, for this quondam is well known in Washington, and Bob never fails of a quarter tip when he tells this story in his inimitable way to his customers.

HUNTING WITH GROVER.

This Invitation Was a Joke, but It Was Accepted.

"Just drop in on Cleveland and invite the old gentleman to come over here with his dog and gun and have a day off with the rabbits and birds."

James C. Robins' hired man was about starting from Cranbury N. J., to Princeton to do some shoping when he received this order from his employer.

The hired man, Charles Cummings, mounted his bicycle and started. He took as serious the message Mr. Robins gave in fun. Cummings attended to his errand as soon as he reached Princeton. He left his wheel outside for Ruth to admire and walked up the front steps. He thought it must be a case of old friends. He asked to see Mr. Cleveland, and was not astonished when invited inside. The former President made Cummings feel so much at home that he really extended the invitation on his own part as well as that of his employer.

"We'll give you good shooting, Mr. Cleveland," he said, "and you won't return empty-handed."

"I thank you heartily," said Mr. Cleveland, "but I am sorry that I have arranged to spend several days this week duck shooting. If he will arrange for some day next week I would be pleased to accept."

That was the last week. Cummings carried back the message in the same manner in which he would have returned with a jug of molasses.

"He says he will come next week if you will fix a day," he said to his employer.

The corncob pipe fell from Mr. Robins' lips. Here was Cummings actually playing his joke back upon the perpetrator.

"That's straight," said the hired man. "You ain't going to back out now, are you?"

Assured and reassured that Mr. Cleveland expected a reply from him, Mr. Robins wrote to the former President arranging a hunting trip for Thursday of this week, subject to his convenience.

Sure enough, Thursday morning Mr. Cleveland and a companion arrived and had a hunt with the astonished farmer. The ex-President bagged six cottontails and as many quails.

Cranbury has not recovered from the surprise. In politics it has always been so unanimously Republican that the Democrats seldom go to the trouble of naming a ticket. Robins and Cummings have been the Democratic party of Cranbury all by themselves.—Chicago Tribune.

TWO GAMES IN ONE.

The Pleasures of Pig-Driving as Compared With Chess and Golf.

One of the old residents in the rural community had been intently watching the two young men from the city as they played chess. The game was a long one and he ventured to interrupt:

"Excuse me; but the object of both of you is to get them wooden objects from where they are over to where they ain't?"

"That partially expresses it," replied one.

"And you have to be continually on the lookout for surprises and difficulties?"

"Constantly."

"And if you ain't mighty keerful you're goin' to lose some on 'em?"

"Yes."

"An' then there's that other game that you dress up odd fur an' play with long sticks an' a little ball."

"You mean golf."

"I think prob'ly that's what I mean. Is that game amusin'?"

"It's quite interesting, and the exercise is very beneficial."

"Well, I reckon it's a mighty good joke on me."

"What do you refer to?"

"The way I've been havin' fun without knowin' anything about it. If you gentlemen want to re'ly enjoy yourselfs you come over and git me to let you drive pigs. You'll git all the walkin' you want, an' the way you have to watch out fur surprises an' figger so's not to lose 'em would tickle you to death."—Detroit Free Press.

Habit Becomes Second Nature.

Micks—How many of us say "funny" when we mean peculiar.

Dicks—Yes; funny, isn't it?—Philadelphia North American.

IN CHARGE OF DIAMONDS

A SOUTH AFRICAN TALE

By CONSTANCE VERNON CAVE.

Author of "When the Snow Lay on the Ground," "Noel," &c., &c.

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"In six months' time I shall be able to send for you and Tommy. I am getting on famously, and shall have a comfortable home by then. I think dear, you will like the life——"

I gave a groan and stopped writing the usual fortnightly lie. I was down on my luck; even now I shudder whenever I think of those mail days; I was in the cafe less because I had money for a meal than that it was a quiet spot at that hour, and the enterprising proprietor provided writing materials free. A man was writing at the next table, else the place was empty. I had seen him before often; he was rather elderly, wore a profusion of jewelry, and seemed to live in clover. How I envied him whilst eating the poor food I could afford, and resented his glances. He was a Jew and his manner was not offensive, but poverty begets sensitiveness.

That morning, too, I was dreadfully down, and everything seemed an aggravation of my misery. Between ruin and myself there lay £12, and £10 must be sent home in my letter.

But for two at home I would have speedily made an end of it, had one good square meal, and then blown my brains out, but I had others dependent upon me; my life was not my own.

"Another lie," I said as I sealed up the letter. "Well! one more or less won't matter."

And my thoughts wandered far away. It was summer in England. I could see the shadow of the lines cast upon the lawn in the old home. Meg would be pouring out tea and Tommy rolling on the grass. Bah! some things do not bear thinking of! Here I was interrupted by my neighbor, who, drawing a chair to my table, said:

"Excuse me, you are looking for employment?"

"Looking for employment!" My God! what had I done for the last three months but hunt vainly for work. I was broken down, a "waster," if you will; want of food and hope will make a fool of any man. I declare at that first hint of better things I could have—well, no matter.

Then he said he wanted a man for some work who would take his chance if trouble came, and hold his tongue. For myself, I was nearly desperate, and if this post meant money, ready to snap my fingers at any danger that signified comfort to others, and asked eagerly what he offered.

"Forty pounds a month and traveling expenses," he answered.

"Forty pounds!" It was like being plunged into heaven, after a good taste of the other place to give it a flavor. I jumped at his offer, but I was to hear no more then.

"Come to my home, here's my card," he said, "and look, I'll advance you this."

"This" was a £10 note, and I began to think it queer.

"You are very confiding, Mr.—ah—Jacobs. Suppose I decamped?"

He laughed. After taking my retaining fee, Burton? Besides in our business, as you will find, something always has to be risked." After that he departed, giving no clue as to what this mysterious "business" might be. For me, I sat on bewildered still, holding the man's pasteboard. That was tangible, at any rate, and told me that Jacobs was a doctor. I knew his drug store, a poor-looking place, but in that country store or clothes were nothing to judge a man by.

Some of the wealthiest in the city wore garments a scarecrow would have scorned, whilst on the other hand, poor devils like myself were bound to look decent. Still I was half inclined to think the affair a hoax, only that the note was right enough. I opened Meg's letter, put a good part of Dr. Jacobs' gift, and the rest of the money in, recklessly destroying the stamp; then I posted it, treated myself to a dinner and bought some cigars, a luxury I had not enjoyed for long enough. I smoked the pipe of peace till it was 7 o'clock, then strolled up the street and had a look at my new friend's diggings. A poor place enough, but that counted for nothing at the mines. What astonished me was he doctored the natives; two or three of them came out as I was waiting with that peculiar hue upon them which makes a sick nigger the most miserable looking creature on the face of God's earth. However, there I was, and the quarter striking, I entered the drug store. The doctor, who was smoking, looked up.

"So you haven't thought better of it?" he said.

There was certainly a personality about the man, a reserve force, that made my belief in him, which had sunk to zero, spring up anew.

"No, I haven't," I answered slowly. "But I'd like to know what the post you offer is, and in what its danger consists?"

"So you shall, my dear fellow," he replied. "Here, light up, won't you, and we'll—stop a bit, though, here's a customer."

The door opened, and another native came in. Seeing me, he was about to depart, when the doctor called out: "All friends here, Jim. You'll find your dose in the next room." And as the man left he turned to me. "These fellows feel the hard work in the mines fearfully. A good many come to me to put them to rights.

"It seems to give them an attack of mal de mer," I said, as unmistakable sounds came from the room beyond.

He nodded. "It has precisely that effect," he answered, rather drily, I thought.

Presently Jim lurched out, a dreadful whiff of coarse brandy coming with him, and smiled engagingly at the doctor.

"Hine berry goot, Baas, Jim ally right now," and departed.

Jacobs gave a whistle and a Jew boy appeared. "Keep store, Barney; I'm engaged. Now, Mr. Burton."

I followed him and caught glimpses of other doors; the house was larger than I thought, but we were soon seated smoking.

"I suppose, as you are here, you have made up your mind?" he said. "I am only a subordinate, but I am authorized by the firm to offer you the appointment, unless you are deterred by the danger."

"I'll take any honorable post that brings in the sum you mentioned, and be glad," I cried. "As for the danger! Great Scott! Do you suppose I care for that?"

"No, I should think you were ready for anything. Don't be angry, man; but it is not exactly an honorable post I offer you. You might counter-balance that with the screw, which I may remind you is one not usually given to a stranger."

I flushed up. Yes, I was in a tight place enough, but "not exactly honourable." I had hitherto at least kept honour intact; but—and Meg's and Tommy's face flashed before me. I was nearly heartbroken, half-starved, without a friend in the world. My mind was made up, and I enquired what the nature of the danger was.

"And you haven't guessed it yet?" cried the doctor, wonderingly. "By Jove, you are the man for us! Did you never in all your innocent life hear of an I. D. B.?"

In a moment all was clear to me. Who had not heard of these three letters—an I. D. B? An Illicit Diamond Buyer, who bought stones from the natives employed in the mines.

They, in spite of all supervision, managed to smuggle the gems outside, where the I. D. B. would give them a price, and by some means get the stones conveyed to Europe, where, once landed, a market was easily found.

Dr. Jacobs was watching me.

"I can see it's a bit of a facer," he said, not unkindly. "But if you won't take the job, another fellow will, you know, and why should the other fellow have your luck. Think it over, there's no hurry."

I nodded and was silent, but before five minutes were over I had made up my mind.

"I accept, doctor, but if I am found out you will hear no more of me. There are those at home who would not think I could sink so low."

"Couldn't wish anything better," was the unexpected reply. "Dead men tell no tales. Read that."

I took the piece of newspaper he handed me. It was headed "Capture of an I. D. B."

"Joe Coates, our able detective, was fortunate enough to capture an I. D. B., on the stage yesterday. The prisoner had about £5,000 worth of gems hidden underneath a layer of matches in a Bryant and May's box. The stones are safe, but the unfortunate man, as soon as he saw the game was up, shot himself dead. Coates is to be congratulated upon his capture—the second in the last three months. It is time more stringent measures were taken and the I. D. B.'s put down with a strong hand. Nothing has as yet transpired to give any clue to the identity of the dead man."

I put down the paper, and the doctor glanced at me.

"Well?" he said.

"That way is good enough for me," I replied.

"So we understand each other, then. Now for business. You start for Capetown to-morrow. There you call at the office of the Castle Company and find a saloon passage taken for you in the 'Walmer Castle.' Your name is Seton; here's your voucher. You are traveling in—let me see—ah, yes—corrugated iron for your firm Hunt and Staples, of Great St. Peter's Lane, London, E. C. Upon reaching England you will at once report yourself to them. They will receive your credentials and give you the first instalment of your salary. Then you can go home and await further orders. Here is money. Be liberal with it, but not too liberal. Don't make many friends on the passage home, but be civil to all. And for heaven's sake keep clear of the women."

"No fear. I am a married man."

"Worse and worse," he interrupted. "Remember you've been warned."

"I can take care of myself," I replied carelessly.

"Hope so, I'm sure. Stay, I may as well tell you there will be a detective on board the 'Walmer' on the look out for your goods. Your own shrewdness must teach you how to avoid him; but we know, never mind how, that the man will probably have the nail of the third finger of his right hand missing."

At the side of the room there was a glass door shrouded by an orange-colored curtain. I noticed that whenever the doctor said "we" he glanced in that direction, and I felt sure there was someone behind it watching me. Several times when I was looking away I fancied I saw the curtain move, yet I never could be certain; it was a most uncomfortable sensation.

"Be sure I'll spot the fellow," I said, with a confidence I was far from feeling. "Where is the parcel I am to have charge of?"

Jacobs rose and passed into the other room. Was I mistaken or did I catch voices?

He returned alone, bringing with him what looked like a box of candles, but when he opened it it was not full, a third of the candles having been used; and all that were left had seemingly been burnt a little.

"That is to blind the customs," he said, pointing to the burnt wicks.

"I suppose the candles are sham," I answered. "Hollow, of course?"

"Yes and no," he replied, "See."

And he lit one of them, which burnt perfectly, then taking up another pulled a sort of plug out by the wick, and a stream of gems were flashing upon the table.

It was very cleverly done, and the shimmer of the stones in the lamplight took my breath away.

"Pretty, aren't they?" he said, carefully replacing them in their hiding place. "Now you see what you've got. Get a candlestick with a glass shade, interview the doctor of the 'Walmer,' declare you suffer from—what you like, and can't sleep without a light. I'll give you a certificate to bear out your story, and there you are."

"How am I to tell which candles to burn?" I asked anxiously.

Jacobs smiled, and showed me that several of the candles had what is called a shroud, i. e., a blob of greese that had guttered down them, as if they had been standing in the draught.

"Be careful only to light these," he said, pointing them out. "Well, I've no more to say. You'll start early to-morrow; if anything fresh turns up I'll write to the company office. By the way, this is our code. Study it and keep it locked up, mind. Time you were off now. Good-bye, and good luck."

Another minute, and I was in the streets feeling as if I had had a bad dream. But the brown paper parcel under my arm was a convincing fact that I really had embarked upon the calling of an I. D. B., that I, so proud of my name, was undertaking a post I at least had the grace to be ashamed of.

I reached Capetown without adventure and lost no time in calling at the office, where the first little hitch occurred. And I received a hint all might not be such plain sailing after all. There was a wire awaiting me from Jacobs. It ran thus:

"Don't come. Charles gives new camp-stool."

I read it stupidly three or four times, when at last it dawned upon me that the key lay in my red book. I hurried to the hotel, and found it easy enough to translate the word, the corresponding one in the code always beginning with the same letter. The message ran thus:

"Detective changed; can give no clue."

A nice kettle of fish, but it was lunch time, so I locked up the code, and went down. After all, forewarned was forearmed, but my lunch would have been a dreary one, only a nice sort of fellow was sitting next me, and we got talking, and were mutually pleased to find we were to be fellow passengers by the Walmer Castle.

The next day saw us steaming away from Capetown, the usual crowd on board, recovered invalids, and some poor devils who had no chance of recovery, missionaries, male and female, a set of people who looked good fun, a far smaller set who looked good form, a lot of poor chaps going home stony broke, and the usual lively sprinkling of marriageable girls and festive grass widows.

Presently Dalton came up. "I say our rooms are next door, old man, come and see them." Dalton was my friend of the hotel, and he went on: "We shall have a jolly time of it, I think."

This reminded me I had better go down. True, my precious box was safe enough under my arm, but I could not go through the voyage hanging on to a brown paper parcel. My room had been secured to myself, and was a very comfortable outside cabin. I unpacked my things, and repacked the candle box, first taking out one of the bona fide candles and sticking it into the candlestick; then there was a knock, and in came Dalton. "You have got fixed up quickly," he cried, and began lounging round. Now, as it may be supposed, the last thing I wanted was that he or anyone else should prowl round my room, so I answered rather shortly, but his was a nature that took a heap of snubbing. "Candles," he said, arting at it, "won't be able to burn them, though, old man."

"Doctor's certificate; can't sleep without," I answered quickly.

"Great Scot! I pity you. Now, I sleep like a top. You must have got an uneasy conscience!" Then, as I did not answer, he rattled on. "Come and see my room next door." And as my one idea was to get rid of the man, I followed. If my room was tidy, his was the reverse; his things were strewn in every direction. I am a methodical fellow myself, and the sight was sickening; his bed was heaped with clothes, pipes lay everywhere, whilst as for pouches I counted no less than six.

"I suppose I am about the most untidy transparent man in creation," he said, observing my look. "Stuff all my baccy into pouches to 'do' the customs, aye. Make you a present of the patent, old chap. Don't look as if I'd anything to hide, do I?"

"No, no," I assented, then shortly took my way on deck and smoked furiously, for a dreadful suspicion crossed my mind. The new detective, the man Jacobs had warned me of. What if I had foolishly walked into his very jaws, and Dalton turn out to be the one person on board the Walmer I ought to have avoided. How anxious he had been to chum with me; how eager to see my room; how he had at once spotted the candles. I had indeed fallen easily into the trap!

So when I went down to dinner and found him sitting next me, I talked away to my other neighbor, a plump little kitten of a woman, called Warren.

She was nothing loth, and became very confidential, told me she had been a widow for some years, and was going home to see her two children at school. Dalton tried to break into the conversation once or twice, but luckily Mrs. Warren did not seem to have taken a fancy to him and answered very shortly.

After dinner I interviewed the doctor and got permission to use my candlestick. He was very pleasant, said I looked seedy. I thought that the time of anxiety and semi-starvation had had its use, and departed happy in the possession of a phial of medicine—anything that disarmed suspicion was useful. Then I went to bed and took advantage of the bad weather that followed to stay there for a little. I felt so safe.

But that soon passed, and we all struggled up on deck and began more or less to enjoy ourselves. I did, for one, at times when I could forget. As for Dalton, he stuck to us like a leech. Mrs. Warren said laughingly there were bets on board as to whether I was his keeper or he mine.

"You must not think I believe that," she added, showing her pretty teeth in a smile.

"I don't," I replied. "As for betting, a pack of silly fools will bet on anything from the day's run to the captain's age."

"Mr. Dalton is dreadfully curious," she said; "says you are so fidgety, and can't bear your things touched, and—Oh, a lot of other things."

"Does he?" I answered. "Well, he needn't talk—I don't sleep with my pouch tucked under my pillow."

The little woman looked up. "How funny!" she cried. "I don't like him much, Mr. Seton; he is almost too communicative—so painfully open that I keep thinking there must be something to conceal. You will call me a silly little thing, I know."

But I didn't. I called her—no matter what. Afterwards I made out the best case I could for Dalton. I was sorry I'd done it, though, for that evening, just as I'd slipped off to bed, the door opened and in he came.

"Thought I'd come and cheer you up a bit," he said, and then plumped himself down and began to fidget round.

As fate would have it, I had had my candle-box out, to assure myself of its safety, and he took one out and began to toss it mechanically from one hand to another. A little more and he might have dropped it, and—it was not one of those intended for burning.

"Great Heavens, man! Don't be such a fool," I cried, snatching it away. "The thing is useless if you break it."

"You have plenty more," he laughed. "More than you'll need, old man, for they are saying in the smoke-room that the 'Walmer' is going to break the record this trip."

"For pity's sake don't deluge me with smoke-room gossip," I cried savagely, for my nerves were all ajar. "There, go away, there's a good fellow, and let me try and sleep; this confounded head of mine is splitting."

He went, and at last I dropped off. I awoke hours later, with an uneasy feeling that someone was watching me. My candle was all but burnt out, flickering, and I had the conviction that some human eye was upon me. The candle box was safe enough. I would light another and perhaps the weird feeling would go. I did so, and the fancy died away, but I was not satisfied, and, opening the door, I saw under Dalton's a gleam of light; he was awake till daylight, watching too. I hope I am no coward, but I seemed to feel that all was over and that there was nothing for it but the cold muzzle of a pistol against my temples. I hailed the tardy dawn with the delight those know who have watched through a night, and, re-assured by the daylight, I fell asleep.

Mrs. Warren and I had another chat over Dalton that day after lunch. I told her of his conduct in the night.

"It certainly looks a bit shady," she assented.

A happy thought struck me. "Perhaps, my dear Mrs. Warren, he is an I.D.B., with no end of diamonds to conceal, and thinks I have designs upon them!"

But Mrs. Warren had never heard of an I.D.B., and I had to explain the whole matter. When I had done so she, to my surprise, flared up in defence of Dalton, said I was uncharitable, and a lot of other things. She looked so awfully pretty, too, that we spent a very pleasant afternoon.

That evening brought our last concert. Dalton was to sing; he was rather good at that sort of thing. Everyone was in high feather, for the "Walmer" was justifying the smoke-room opinion and making a record trip. I managed to stay in my room with a bad headache. I had successfully established a reputation for bad health, and I wanted a quiet time to pack.

I was busy at this, when it suddenly struck me that someone was moving in Dalton's room. Everyone was at the concert; who could it be? I set my door softly open. One might hate a fellow, but would not see him robbed. I had not long to wait. I heard the soft swish of a woman's dress, and to my astonishment out stepped—Mrs. Warren. With one of her very sweetest smiles, a finger on her lip, and a murmured "Keep my secret," she glided away. I was dumbfounded. She, of all people, to sneak out of Dalton's state room. It was playing the thing awfully low, but I was playing so far lower that I kept her secret and my own to boot. Besides, she was a woman—such a pretty one, too.

The "Walmer" steamed away so well that we were shortly at anchor, then my one idea was the customs; and that awful ordeal over, I remembered that I had forgotten to say good-bye to my fellow passengers.

In vainly hunting for them I ran the train so close that I had only time to jump in, and discover with joy that I was in an empty carriage. But, alas, there were other people later still. We were just moving off when a gruff voice said, "'Ere you are, lady," the door opened, and in jumped Mrs. Warren!

Woman like, she set on me at once. "I am glad we've met; I'm sure you must think badly of me. I don't want you to think badly of me, dear Mr. Seton; we have been such friends that I feel I should like to tell you all about it."

I smiled pleasantly, my eyes fixed on the carriage rack, in which reposed my valuable parcel. What an escape I had had, to be sure. As for poor Dalton, well, well, it's the way of the world. We even have it on the authority of a well-known book that "One shall be taken and another left." But Mrs. Warren's gentle voice purred on:

"I could not stop to explain that evening you saw me in his room, and yet I know you must have thought it so strange of me to be there."

"Not at all," I said politely, but I am afraid added to myself, "Tell me all about it. Yes, my lady, just as much as you mean to, I expect. Ugh! you women!"

"And you really ought to know all, for it's owing to you entirely that I made the capture, the very biggest haul I ever landed since I became a detective."

A cold shudder ran down my back. I could not speak, my eyes were glued to my precious candle-box. If she had only known she might have then and there covered herself with still greater glory.

"It's a horrid business, I know, to take up, not nice," and she sighed heavily. "But my dear Mr. Seton, what is a poor woman to do, left alone in the world with two children to bring up, and no money to do it with. She must earn their bread and cheese somehow."

I sighed also. Yes, it was hard. How many dirty jobs a man will do for the sake of those who are dear to him that he would scorn to put his hand to were he alone and independent.

After all she was only fighting for her own, like I was. Who was I to blame her for that, and I replied that she "must have had a very hard time."

Something, was it tears or a good imitation of them, dimmed her eyes suddenly.

"I have," she said shortly, and for a moment her lips tightened. "If I hunt down prey it is only that my cubs may be fed. And I owe all this to you. You remember telling me about the pouch Mr. Dalton kept under his pillow?"

"Yes, perfectly," I answered.

"That put me on the right scent, and that evening, knowing he would be safe singing in the saloon, I determined to steal down into his state-room and have a look round. I knew the stewards were not likely to be about just then, and I never thought of you, believing you to be in the saloon also."

"I had a headache, and had gone to lie down," I replied.

"So I hunted about in his room, and at last, stuffed under the mattress, I found what I wanted. Only think, Mr. Seton—tucked away in an old pouch, rolled round with some dirty tobacco, thousands of pounds worth—of lovely diamonds."

"How clever of you!" I exclaimed, murmuring to myself: "Poor brute!"

"I was very quiet about it—a little startled when I saw you, but we were such friends I knew you would not give me away. I had my gentleman safely enough when we landed. You should have seen his face; I never saw a man so taken aback."

"Poor devil!" I cried. "I beg your pardon, Mrs. Warren; I mean it served the beggar right."

"I could not really afford to be sorry for him myself," she replied. "Remember what a coup like that meant to me. But he was surprised, and the funniest thing of it all was—I can hardly help laughing when I think of it, even now——"

And she flung herself back with a merry peal.

"Oh, Mr. Seton, you will laugh too, when you hear it, I know. Just fancy, he actually had taken you for a detective, and was employed all the time in throwing you off the scent, thinking that you were engaged in shadowing him."

When we reached town I saw Mrs. Warren off to her destination in a cab, and then proceeded to the office of Hunt & Staples, in Great St. Peter's Lane.

My principals were kind enough to say they were very pleased at the way I had conducted the affair, and would let me know when I was next required to proceed to South Africa.

Meantime I could have a holiday; and I was soon speeding away by the express into the dear old West Country, to live my own life for a little time with those who were so dear to me, my only memento of my voyage home in the "Walmer Castle" being an empty candle-box and a big cheque.

Several times afterwards did I run the gauntlet of the voyage home with the same precious cargo in charge, but although I had many wonderful escapes, yet I am glad to say I never met the fascinating Mrs. Warren again.

(The End.)

In the Menagerie.

"Come on," said the first flea, as he hopped from the brown bear's left foreleg, "come over and join me at a short golf game."

"Golf!" exclaimed the second flea, hastily taking a bite of hyena, "where in the realm of Barnum are we to play golf?"

"Why," said the first flea, "over on the lynx, of course."—Life.

Old.

"Truly a daughter of Eve!"

"How cruel of you to speak that way about her!"

"Well, a woman's as old as she looks, isn't she?"

Of course a man who would sit and smoke a six-for-a-quarter odor into a $50 lace curtain was mean enough to say almost anything.—Detroit Journal.

Standing.

"She took high standing at the cooking school?"

"Very. She played left tackle in the eleven and third base in the nine, and she rowed stroke in the crew. Yes."

Education, it was to be observed, was no longer a storing of the mind with mere facts, but something rather broader than that.—Detroit Journal.

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Fifteen Decisive Battles.

"Please give the names and dates of the fifteen decisive battles of the world."—P. M. S., Calis, W. Va.

"Creasy's Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World" gives the following:

Marathon, 490 B. C., in which the Athenians, 11,000 strong, under Miltiades, defeated the Persians, 110,000 strong, under Xerxes.

Thermopylae.—Here, 480 B. C., Leonidas, at the head of 300 Spartans and 700 Thespians, withstood the whole force of the Persians for three days. The enemy being secretly guided to the rear of the Greeks, the latter, hemmed in between two assailants, perished gloriously, all but one man, who was held in dishonor for his flight.

Philippi.—Here, 42 B. C., Octavius Caesar and Marc Antony defeated the republican forces of Brutus and Cassius, who thereupon both committed suicide.

Chalons, A. D. 451, in which the Huns, under Atilla, "the scourge of God," were defeated by the armies of the Romans and Visgoths.

Tours, A. D. 732, in which Charles Martel defeated the Saracens, and Europe was rescued from Mohammedanism.

Hastings, 1066 A. D., where William the Conqueror, at the head of his armies, defeated Harold, commanding the Saxon English.

Bannockburn, 1314 A. D., where 30,000 Scots under Robert Bruce, defeated 100,000 English under Edward II.

Lutzen, A. D. 1632.—Here Gustavus Adolphus defeated the Imperialists under Wallenstein.

Spanish Armada of 132 ships, under Medina Sidonia, scattered by the English fleet, A. D. 1588.

Worcester, September 3, 1651, where the Royalists were finally defeated by Cromwell—Cromwell's "Crowning Mercy."

Quebec, on September 13, 1759, won by Wolfe from the French general, Montcalm.

Saratoga, A. D. 1777, the British were finally defeated by their American colonists, henceforward the United States.

Valmy, 1792, the invading Germans and Austrians, missioned to chastise and distribute France, were thrashed by the young French republic.

Trafalgar, 1805, off which the British, under Nelson, gained a great naval victory over the combined fleets of France and Spain.

Waterloo, June 18, 1815, the final defeat of Napoleon.

As Creasy's history was published half a century ago, there have taken place other great battles which should be included in the above.

The Twentieth Century.

"There is a dispute at this place in regard to when the twentieth century begins. Some say that it begins January 1, 1900, others say that it does not begin until January 1, 1901. Please give your opinion."—N. P., Inglefield, Ind.

It is not a mere opinion, but a fact, that the twentieth century will begin on January 1, 1901. It takes 100 full years to make a century. The first century began with the year 1, and ended December 31, A. D. 100. The second century began January 1, A. D. 101; the third, January 1, 201; the tenth, January 1, 901; the sixteenth, January 1, 1501; the nineteenth, January 1, 1801; the twentieth begins January 1, 1901.

Traveling Libraries.

"Will you please give me through your Bureau what you can on traveling libraries?"—M. C. B., Mayville, N. Y.

Four year ago the New York State Library instituted a system of circulating books that has since received the name of traveling libraries. It began by sending out 100 volumes each to various parts of the state. They remained but six months at a place when they were returned to the parent library to be exchanged if desired, and reshipped to another station. Each library was so completely equipped that it could be operated independently wherever it might be placed. They were loaned to properly accredited public libraries and to communities without such libraries upon the petition of 25 resident taxpayers. After a time the rules were extended to include loans to accredited university-extension centers, and to study or reading clubs, of smaller libraries of 50 and 25 volumes and the demand is for still smaller ones. A fee of $5 is charged for each library of 100 volumes, and $3 for 50 volumes, in consideration of which the state pays all expenses of transportation. The fee is doubled if those who receive the library make any charge for the use of the books. The persons, institutions or societies borrowing the books are responsible for any losses or injuries however incurred. A traveling library system has also been instituted in Michigan.

National Banks.

"What and how many officers must a national bank have, including directors? Please explain how they are elected, and if a stockholder has as many votes as he has shares. Are other corporations controlled in like manner?"—J. R. L., Grand Rapids, O.

National bank officers as required by law are: President, vice-president and cashier. The law specifies that a board of at least five directors shall be elected by the stockholders at annual meetings. In case of vacancy the board can appoint to fill the unexpired terms. One vote is allowed for each share of stock. The board of directors elects the president and vice-president each year, and the cashier is elected to serve at the pleasure of the board, and holds over from year to year unless retired by resignation or dismissal.

National banks are controlled by the United States banking laws. Other corporations are authorized by the laws of the state or states in which they are organized and transact business. The election of directors and officers is very similar to that of national banks.

D'Estaing's Fleet.

"Please give what information you can about D'Estaing's fleet, which figured so prominently at one time in the Revolutionary war—especially about the number of ships, men and operations."—C. H. B., Bannerville, Ohio.

The first movement of the French government in its alliance with the American colonies was to dispatch a squadron consisting of 12 ships of the line, and four large frigates, under Count Chas. H. D'Estaing, as vice admiral, to blockade the British fleet in the Delaware. This was in March 1778. Count D'Estaing planned the attack on the British fleet under Lord Howe at Newport, which proved a failure owing to a violent storm which separated the two fleets and the French suffering considerable damage. In 1779, with General Lincoln, Count D'Estaing assaulted Savannah and captured a number of British ships. On his return to France he prevailed upon the ministry to send 6,000 men to America under Count de Rochambeau.

Russian Iron.

"Where is Russia iron made, and from what ore is it manufactured? Also, is it manufactured in the United States, or is it imported?"—F. H., North Williams, Mich.

This iron is manufactured in Russia. It is made from a very soft pig iron. The industries producing this iron are controlled by the Russian government and the process of manufacture is a secret carefully guarded. Very little, if any, Russia iron is imported to this country at present. It has been supplanted by an imitation, called planished iron, made in Pennsylvania, which is said to be equal in many respects to the original Russia iron.

Venus of Milo.

"What were the physical measurements of the celebrated Venus statue?"—Sir Oracle, Bunker's Hill, Ill.

The measurements of the statue Venus of Milo, now in the Louvre at Paris, are as follows:

Height	5 feet, 7 inches
Bust	35 inches
Arm	9¼ inches
Neck	12 inches
Waist	25 inches
Hips	37 inches
Thigh	21 inches
Calf	13¼ inches
Ankle	8¾ inches

Tides in the Red Sea.

"Does the tide affect the water where Moses led the children of Israel through the Red Sea?"—M. M., Porter's Falls, W. Va.

The waters of the Red Sea are, of course, influenced by the tides. At the point where it is believed Moses led the children of Israel through the sea, it is claimed that a bar exists, or did exist, which, with a combination of low tide and a strong east wind, leaves this point almost exposed from shore to shore. Thus it is that science explains the miracle as related to the Old Testament.

Flash Light Powders.

"Please give the materials and how to mix them for making the flash-light that photographers use after dark to take photographs."—J. S., Kansas, Ill.

Of the various materials used in the manufacture of flash light powders, magnesium is the principal ingredient. It is a silvery white, somewhat brittle metal, obtainable commercially in the form of ribbon, wire or powder. Magnesium produces a slow burning and very brilliant white light. To give the instantaneous flash, as used by photographers, manufacturers mix with it explosives, such as chlorates, perchlorates, picric acid or a picrate, potassium bichromate, etc. These are very dangerous, and require great care in handling. In what proportions these explosives are used with the magnesium is known only to the manufacturers. Their formulas are trade secrets, well guarded by them.

Rare Coins, Etc.

J. P. M., Columbus, Neb., and Subscriber, Ransom, Ill.: We have no means of keeping track of premiums on foreign coins. They are not much esteemed by American collectors.

L. H. M., Dallas, Ore.: Coins on which the date is not clearly legible are not wanted by collectors. Besides, there is no premium on the half-dollar of either 1821 or 1831.

L. H., Broughton, Pa.: There are five varieties of the copper half-cent of 1804. With plain 4, it is worth 5 cents; with plain 4 and stemless wreath, it is worth 1 cent; with crosslet 4 and stemless wreath, 5 cents; with crosslet 4, 1 cent; with crosslet 4, protruding tongue and chin, 2 cents.

I. A., Watertown, S. D.: The gold quarter-dollars were all coined in San Francisco. The octagonal quarter of 1859 is worth 40 cents.

W. H. V., Fairfield, Iowa: There are so many varieties of the old continental paper money that we can not give values of individual notes. They are not worth anything except as curiosities. The 1776 half-dollar note is worth about 50 cents, as it is somewhat rare. The 60-dollar note is worth somewhere from 25 to 50 cents. That is, collectors will pay that for them, if they are in good order.

We always wait until we have several queries under this head before answering them. It is always impossible for us to pay any attention to requests to "answer next week" because we are, as a rule, two to five weeks behindhand. That is, we have that many more questions than we have room for, and we endeavor to answer in turn.

No President for Six Hours.

"I am told by some of The Blade readers that it answered the following query some time ago, viz.: 'Who was President of the United States for six hours?' Will you please send me the issue that answered the query, or name the person for me?"—Reader, Napoleon, O.

Some two years ago The Blade answered this question. There never was a President for six hours, nor for a day, as some assert. The idea got into some people's heads that, as on three occasions March 4, inauguration day, came on Sunday, and as the President's term expires on March 4 at noon, the Vice President was really President until the new President was sworn in. This, however, is not true. A man is not President until he takes the oath of office for the President, as prescribed in the constitution; and no one ever did that in the cases referred to.

Queen Victoria's Surname.

"What was the maiden name of Queen Victoria? Also the name of her husband, Prince Albert? Who were his parents?"—A. J., Maple Rapids, Mich.

Queen Victoria's family had no surname, properly speaking. She was the daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of King George III. She is the last monarch of the house of Hanover, so called because George I., the first king of that line, was the son of the elector of Hanover, a petty German state.

Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg Gotha. His family name was, we believe, Wettin; so that the queen would be Mrs. Wettin, if it were the custom in royal families to use surnames.

Prince Albert was the son of Prince Ernest of Saxe Coburg Gotha, a little German principality.

Transient Newspaper Postage.

"I wish to send some newspapers to a friend and the postmaster and I do not agree on the postage to be paid. Will you give the rate, please?"—Reader, Johnstown, O.

The postal law says: "On newspaper and periodical publications of the second class, when sent by others than the publisher or news agent, the postage shall be prepaid at the rate of one cent for each 4 ounces, or fractional part thereof."

That is, on a newspaper weighing 4 ounces or less, one cent; weighing 4 ounces, but not more than 8 ounces, 2 cents; and so on.

A Justice's Title.

"Is is proper or allowable to apply the epithets judge and honorable to a justice of the peace?"—J. L. W., Lincoln, Neb.

It is not proper to use the word "Judge" in referring to a justice of the peace. It is allowable and customary for lawyers, in addressing him, while making an argument, to speak of "Your Honor;" but it is not proper to address him as "Hon. John Smith, Justice of the Peace."

Credit Foncier Banks.

"I saw an editorial in your paper about a year ago, describing the Bank of France, and stating there was talk of establishing an institution of that kind in this country. Has there ever been such an institution established here? If so, where?—Reader, Elliott, O.

You are mistake as to the editorial. It was in relation to a project then discussed of establishing a bank on the credit foncier plan, and not on the plan of the bank of France. Nothing has ever been done in regard to it.

No National Flower.

"Has the United States a national flower, and, if so, what is it?"—A. E. T., East Union, Minn.

No, the United States has no national flower, and never will have one, for this reason: Our country has such a difference in climate in different parts that there is no native flower which grows all over the United States, and hence there is no flower suited to become a national symbol.

Pension Question.

"Can a soldier who is getting a pension under the old law, or the law under which pensions were granted before the disability act was passed, which granted a pension for certain claims, such as rheumatism, deafness, defective sight, etc., apply for a pension under the new law, or disability act?"—X. Y. Z., Coylesville, Pa.

Yes, but he must give up his pension under the old law. He can draw pension only under one law.

Miscellaneous.

J. W. B., Marling, Ind.: We know of no such school.

L. P. W., Wyebrooke, Pa.: We are sorry to say we have not the dates you ask for.

S. S., Mt. Nevine, Pa.: The duties of the editor will not permit him to write essays to order.

F. M. S., New Rochester, O.: We are sorry to say we cannot republish the poem. It is too long.

H. T. L., Hastings, Mich.: We do not know the price of the revolver, nor whether it is yet on the market.

R. H., Portland, N. Y.: We are sorry to say we do not know. Probably the editor of some Richmond paper will tell you.

J. N. R., Kossuth, W. Va.: We have not a copy of the laws of your state. Any lawyer or justice of the peace will tell you.

D. D., Niles, Kan.: We do not know. Write a letter to your Representative in Congress, state the case briefly, and ask him to make the necessary inquiries.

L. L., Moore's P. O., Ind.: The United States secret service does not take inexperienced men. It selects men of thorough training and experience.

C. W., Brocton, N. Y.: The Barnum-Bailey show is now in London, England; Sells Bros. is wintering at Columbus, O., and we do not know where the other is.

D. D. W., Bangorville, O.: The pamphlet address of Governor Lippitt at the Cleveland centennial was printed by E. L. Freedman & Sons, Providence, R. I. We do not know its price.

Fern, Page, N. D.: No author at present can be considered the "standard" authority on English grammar. As to oral analysis, and the use of diagrams, they are merely methods of teaching, not peculiar to any author.

E. R. S., Brodgate, Ia.: We suggest that, if you have Bradstreet, you will find the manufacturers you want in that. If you have not, the nearest Bradstreet or Dun office can furnish you the information. We are sorry to say we know no other way.

C. P. H., Kahoka, Mo.: The salaries paid comic artists depend upon their excellence. A first-rate man, of original ideas, can command a good sum. Poor artists are so common that prices are low. We are sorry we have not the facts to answer your query about art schools.

Food Caused Pain

Catarrh of the Stomach Cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"I was taken sick about a year ago with catarrh of the stomach. At times I would have a ravenous appetite and at other times could not eat. My food caused me excruciating pain. I was running down so fast I had to stop work. My friends urged my to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. I did so and soon began to feel better. The disagreeable symptoms of disease gradually passed away and flesh and strength returned. I owe it all to Hood's Sarsaparilla." MARY L. CUMMINGS, North Brookfield, Mass. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. $1; six for $5.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate.

Recent Literature.

Readers desiring any further information whatever about these volumes will please address the publishers, whose address is given in every case, and not inquire of The Blade. We do not deal in books.

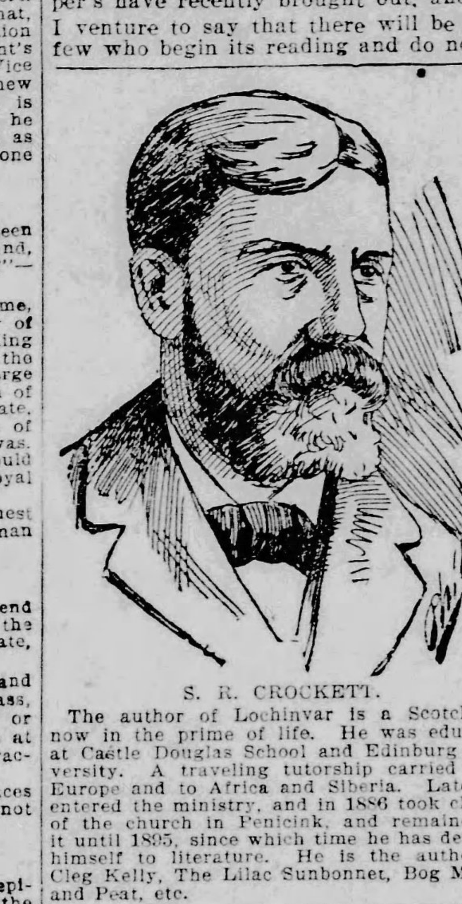
Dariel is the beautiful heroine of Mr. Blackmore's last novel, which is named for her. It is a romance of Surrey, and here in one of old England's country places is its beginning. Dariel is the daughter of a Persian prince, who has been exiled from his country through the machinations of his wicked sister. Coming to England they live in a retired place, where Dariel wins the love of a young Englishman, the second son of a noble house and the one who tells the story. The love is returned, but the two go through many thrilling experiences as related herein, before happiness comes to them.

All of the characteristics which have made Mr. Blackmore so popular with many readers, are present in this novel. There are times when one wearies of the minute descriptions, and the details of trifles, but the interest as a whole is well sustained. The volume is illustrated and comes from the press of Dodd, Mead & Company, New York.

The Ancient Hebrew Significance of the Book of Genesis, by Frank Wood Haviland, is a work which, the author claims, gives a new meaning to this first book in the Bible.

He claims that Genesis explains by his interpretation Noah's Ark, The Science of the Resurrection, The Science of Prophecy and many other things. Published and sold by the author, Frank W. Haviland, 205 W. One Hundred and Eighteenth street, New York City.

Faults there are in Lochinvar, S. R. Crockett's newest story which the Harper's have recently brought out, and yet I venture to say that there will be very few who begin its reading and do not go on to the last pages. For it is a story of fair women and brave men who lived in the old days when the Covenanters had rallied to give victory to the Prince of Orange. The scene at the opening of the story is in Scotland, but later on it is transferred to Holland and most of the action takes place there.



S. R. CROCKETT.

The author of Lochinvar is a Scotchman now in the prime of life. He was educated at Castle Douglas School and Edinburg University. A traveling tutorship carried over Europe and to Africa and Siberia. Later he entered the ministry, and in 1886 took charge of the church in Penicink, and remained in it until 1895, since which time he has devoted himself to literature. He is the author of Cleg Kelly, The Lilac Sunbonnet, Bog Myrtle and Peat, etc.

Lochinvar is not a great story, but it is a very good one in many respects, and will not diminish Mr. Crockett's admirers, especially those who like the clash of arms mingled with the romance of love affairs.

Some of the strongest work that John Fox, jr., has yet done is to be found in The Kentuckians which has been recently brought out by the Harpers after running as a serial through the magazine. I referred to this fact before, but it impresses me more as I look at it again as a whole. The plot is nothing essentially new; indeed, looked at from that point of view, it is rather wanting in some of the essentials to what constitutes a scheme for artistic development, but it is full of vigor and vitality, it is so "alive" from first to last that the reader cannot get away from its thraldom.

Brilliant, caustic and most entertaining are the essays of Agnes Repplier which have been recently published in a volume by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, under the title of Varia. No matter how much the reader may differ from her, he cannot fail to be amused. Through all of them she rails, not in any coarse way, but with a sort of rippling laughter in her words, against the seriousness with which everything is regarded in these later days, and regrets the loss of the old-fashioned enjoyments of the good things of life. She declares that "the perpetual intrusion of ethics into art has begotten a haunting anxiety lest for one glad half hour we should forget that it is our duty to be serious."

Idle Hours in a Library, so named, the author, Prof. William Henry Hudson, says in his preface, because it is made up of essays which are not related to each other, and are the results of many hours of quiet but rather aimless browsing among books, is a very delightful volume, easy to read, yet giving much valuable literary information, and offering hints as to where pleasant things may be found, that might otherwise remain unknown to many readers.

The essays are four in number, as follows: London Life in Shakespeare's Times; Pepys and His Diary; Two Novelists of the English Restoration, and A Glimpse of Bohemia. William Doxey, of San Francisco, is the publisher.

Ef you don't know Doc Sifers I'll jes argy, here and now,
You've bin a mighty little while about here, anyhow!
Cause Doc he's rid these roads and woods—er swum 'em, now and then—
And practiced in this neighborhood sence haint no tellin' when!

This is the first stanza of James Whitcomb Riley's irresistible poems entitled Rubaiyat of Doc Sifers, which gives its name to a volume issued by the Century Co. of New York. An old-fashioned country doctor is made the hero of this story told in verse, one of those characters familiar in all country places, whose goodness of heart never fails. Mr. Riley's work needs no introduction to the reader. The volume is very prettily illustrated.

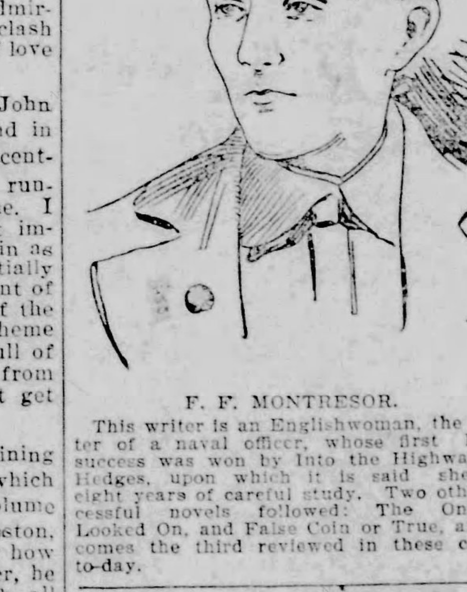
A beautiful holiday book, but one which will be always a pleasant habitant of the library is one entitled Oriental Days a spicy book of travel written by Lucia A. Palmer as a companion volume to her Grecian Days.

The illustrations are fine half tones which show the monuments and life in the East. It is a delightful book, which is issued by The Baker & Taylor Co., New York city.

"Hitherto I have written with the sword, after the fashion of greater men, and requiring no secretary. I now take up the quill to set forth, correctly, certain incidents which, having been noised about, stand in danger of being inaccurately reported by some imitator of Brantome and De l'Estoile. If all the world is to know of this matter, let it know thereof correctly." And then Sieur de la Tournoire proceeds to tell a story of adventures which occur at the French court in the time of Henry of Navarre, and his mother-in-law, Catherine di Medici. The volume is published by L. C. Page & Company, Boston.

The true lover of nature will be charmed with the collection of poems which comes in a pretty volume from Lee & Shepard, of Boston. It has the pretty and suggestive title of The Spinning Wheel at Rest, and the author is Edward Augustus Jenks. The subjects refer, for the most part, to the woods, the trees, the roads and the rivers, all of those things most familiar and most loved. And there are poems for the youngsters too, pretty, tripping things that win the ear with their melody.

A writer who has become very popular in these later years is F. F. Montresor, the author of Into the Highways and Hedges, False Coin or True, etc. The Appletons have recently brought out a new work from her pen, entitled At the Cross Roads. In the preface she tells in a few pithy sentences one aspect of a truth which I want to put down in her own words here. "I have called this story At the Cross Roads," she says, "because in it I have tried to describe how first the man and afterwards the woman stood where two ways met, when each was bound to make that choice which is Life's business. They are (at least so it seems to me) everlastingly together and yet everlastingly alone. Together because it is impossible for either to choose good without blessing, or evil without cursing the other; alone, because choice is, of necessity, individual and lonely, and because we can not take our neighbor's place, even though we may pay 'shame for shame,' and 'sin for sin' and 'love for love.'"



F. F. MONTRESOR.

This writer is an Englishwoman, the daughter of a naval officer, whose first literary success was won by Into the Highways and Hedges, upon which it is said she spent eight years of careful study. Two other successful novels followed: The One Who Looked On, and False Coin or True, and now comes the third reviewed in these columns to-day.

Other Mention.

All lovers of nature enjoy the writings of Charles C. Abbott, when he describes what he sees in his wanderings in forest and dale. In a volume just issued by J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, he is more delightful, if possible, than ever. The book is entitled The Freedom of the Fields, and in it he shows how much he loves the trees, the skies, the flowers and the fields of grass and grain, all of which he chats about as if he were talking to friends. He sees far more than the ordinary observer, finding beauty and interest where others would see emptiness or the commonplace.

In a pretty volume from the house of Lee & Shepard, Boston, comes Dreams in Homespun, by Sam Walter Foss, the well-known author of Back Country Poems. The reader is reminded irresistibly of Will Carleton, Eugene Field and James Whitcomb Riley, although differing from all, but he has the same sense of humor, mingled with a pathos that touches the heart. He is in real earnest, too, and has a purpose in his songs.

Prang's holiday publications are beautiful as usual. Among them are the following calendars which deserve especial mention:

The Flowers We Love, which consists of five large plates on which are pictured heads of beautiful women after the water colors of Frances Brundage;

Dream Roses, in which there is a net-work of foliage and flowers upon four large plates, through which are looking fair faces;

Evangeline, which has six large plates, upon which are pictures of the well-known characters in the poem;

Bridges Over Life's Stream, made up of seasonable landscapes from water color drawings, six of them tied with pink ribbon.

Besides these there are many others which are very pretty, and a whole world of cards, etc., all artistic and attractive. Boston.

Those familiar with the work of the artist Gibson will enjoy the volume of his reproduced sketches issued by Charles Scribner's Sons under the title of London As Seen by Charles Dana Gibson. Some of them were originally published in Life, but lose none of their freshness by that. Among so many good things it is hard to select, but the Church Parade; At the Pavilion, and Sergeant Charley are exceedingly good. Every one of them, however, is full of character and vivid life. On the pages opposite are given short explanations of the subjects of the pictures. The volume is gotten up in good style, heavy cream paper and clear, well-defined typography. It makes a fine holiday book, which the art lover will not fail to value.

The book upon which Henry George spent the last six years of his life is now passing through the press of Doubleday & McClure Co., and will be issued immediately after holidays. It will make a large octavo volume and contain about as much matter as "Progress and Poverty," the surprising popularity of which is attested by the fact that over 8,000 copies have been sold during the past month. The new book will be entitled, "The Science of Political Economy."

A holiday edition of Owen Meredith's Lucile has been issued by Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, which ought to be very handsome, as it contains twelve fac similes of water colors by Madeleine Lemaire and 100 illustrations in black and white by C. McCormick Rogers. The execution of this work, however, does not seem to me up to the usual standard of this house, though the book will doubtless find buyers. The poem itself can never grow old.

The bound volumes of the Century, St. Nicholas and Harper's Round Table are all so well known that they need no especial introduction to would-be buyers. The serial stories appearing in their pages are by noted writers. In the Round Table, for instance, such authors as Capt. Charles King, Molly Elliot Seawell and Ellen Douglas Deland are represented. In St. Nicholas are Frances Courtenay Baylor, John Bennett, William Henry Shelton and Katherine Pyle.

The Century has S. Weir Mitchell, Mary Hartwell Catherwood and Gen. Horace Porter, beside a host of others whose writings are always of interest. The volumes are all superb in every way.

A very beautiful illustrated holiday edition of Longfellow's Evangeline comes from the pres of Houghton, Miflin Co., of Boston. The heavy cream-colored paper makes the clear type stand out wonderfully well. The illustrations by Violet Oakley and Jessie Wilcox Smith are singularly appropriate, the drawings possessing both grace and beauty. A note by Howard Pyle introduces them to the good will of those who like artistic work. The poem itself will never lose its popularity.

A Dear Little Girl, by Amy Blanchard, will be sure to win the attention of those who are looking for a holiday gift for the children. This author's stories are always charmingly written, and the present one is no exception. The illustrations are exceedingly appropriate, being the work of the author herself. The tasteful volume comes from the press of Geo. W. Jacobs Co., Philadelphia.

A new edition of the pretty story of Three Margarets, by Laura E. Richards, comes from Estes & Lauriat, Boston. It makes a delightful addition to the holiday books for the young folks, being not only a very interesting story, but also plentifully illustrated by Ethelred B. Barry. The opening chapter, in which the three cousins introduce themselves each to the others while they are riding together to Fernley House, at once wins friends for the girls, and the friendship holds to the end of the story.

A Manual of Mental Science, by Jessie A. Fowler, is issued by the Fowler & Wells Co., New York city. It is a manual for teachers and students, treating of the character and culture of childhood. It is an effort to assist those who have the important work of training children, to a new way of developing their thought and directing it properly. The author has given most intelligent attention and study to these matters, and the result is offered in this volume. It is well illustrated by cuts, showing how the child's character needs may be studied by the head development.

The Freedom of Henry Meredyth, by M. Hamilton, is a story somewhat intensely told. It is the chronicle of the year succeeding the winning of Henry Meredyth's divorce suit, when he finds himself without a wife, and with a daughter of 18, and three younger children whom he has never cared for. All of the money belonged to his wife, so he is left poor to earn a living for this family. His efforts to put his life upon a new basis make up the larger part of the story. D. Appleton & Co. are the publishers.

A pretty little volume from the press of George W. Jacobs & Co., Philadelphia, is one for young folks entitled Your Little Brother James, by Caroline H. Pemberton. It is said to be a narrative of facts and in very simple but pathetic language the story of the street life and the saving of a boy of the slums is told. It is prettily illustrated.

The Voice of the Valley, by Yone Noguchi, the author of Seen and Unseen, is another of the publications of William Doxey, San Francisco. An introduction is given by Chas. Warren Stoddard, who speaks in the most enthusiastic terms of the magnificent poem which follows, the subject of which is the glorious Yosemite for which words seem vain. There can be no doubt but that the writer is moved by the splendors of the valley to the center of his being. It is a little book that many will value.

A beautiful volume of Eugene Field's poems has been received by The Blade from Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City. They are songs of childhood and are sure to appeal to those for whom they are sung. The illustrations by Charles Robinson are just such as attract the eye and give a graphic idea of what is contained in the text. The volume is prettily bound and will make a charming holiday gift to the boy or girl of the family.

A charming book is that entitled Social Life in Old Virginia, by Thomas Nelson Page. The time represented is before the war, and those old days, have so nearly passed away, that such a picture as this, bringing it back again so vividly for the benefit, especially of the young, who otherwise would know nothing of it, is a good thing. Mr. Page is a charming writer and in this case affection has strengthened his pen, so that the pretty volume should find favor with all readers. It is finely illustrated by the Misses Cowles. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

—Pure blood is absolutely necessary for perfect health. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the one true blood purifier, and great health giver.

Fishing for Health.

When a man breaks down with that dread disease, consumption, and recognizes his condition, he starts out to fish for health. He tries this thing and that thing. He consults this doctor and that doctor. He indulges in all kinds of absurd athletic exercises. He tries first one climate and then another. He tries the rest cure and the work cure. He grows steadily worse.

That is the story of most consumptives. Finally, when the consumptive dies, the doctor shrugs his shoulders and pronounces consumption incurable. A thirty years' test of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has demonstrated that it cures 98 per cent. of all cases of consumption, if taken in the earlier stages of the disease, before the lungs are too far wasted. In a consumptive there is a weaker spot than even the lungs. That spot is the stomach. A consumptive never really begins to die until his stomach gives out. The "Golden Medical Discovery" not only braces up the stomach, but acts directly on the lungs, healing them and driving out all impurities. Honest medicine dealers will not urge you to take an inferior substitute.

"I had a very bad cough, also night-sweats, and was almost in my grave with consumption," writes Mrs. Clara A. McIntyre, Box 171, Ashland, Middlesex Co., Mass. "A friend of mine who had died with consumption came to me in a dream and told me to take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and, thank the Lord, I did so. By the time I had taken half of the first bottle I felt much better. I kept on until I had taken three bottles. That was all I needed. I got well and strong again."

Whenever constipation is one of the complicating causes of disease, the most perfect remedy is Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, which are always effective, yet absolutely mild and harmless. There never was any remedy invented which can take their place. They never gripe.

NEW MEXICO WATERMELON

From the Mesilla Valley of New Mexico, with the guarantee of Captain B. C Wandall, of Bosquebedado, comes what is very likely the largest watermelon yarn of the season. Captain Wandall says that one of his watermelons burst the other night in the field from over-ripeness and washed away nearly half a mile of the acequia madre, or main ditch. If proper machinery can be procured to load it, at least a quarter section of one of these watermelons will be taken to the Albuquerque fair.

THE WATERMELON BURST.

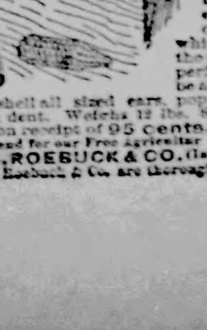
KLONDIKE'S GOVERNOR.

Maj. James A. Walsh has been appointed governor of the Klondike region by the Canadian government. Maj. Walsh has been at the head of the Northwestern mounted police in Canada for many years. He is said to be brave and after the Custer massacre rode intrepidly into the Indian camp of 3,000 braves and gave notice to Sitting Bull as to the limitation of his stay on Canadian soil. Maj. Walsh will establish headquarters at Dawson City and with thirty men picked from his mounted police institute a semi-military government.

Blue Russian Blouses.

Bright blue cloth jackets made after the Russian blouse model and trimmed with black braid are worn with black skirts.

95c FOR A $2 CORN SHELLER



This is the most simple and effective arrangement for shelling corn ever made. There are only 6 pieces in the entire machine, main frame, shell disc, shaft, tension ring and crank. This sheller separates the corn from the cob, and deposits the corn in the box on which it is mounted and the cob outside. It has a perfect tension that can be adjusted instantly, will shell all sized ears, pop corn to the largest southern dent. Weighs 12 lbs. Sent to any address, by freight, on receipt of 95 cents. For all kinds of Corn Shellers send for our Free Agricultural Implement Catalogue.
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)

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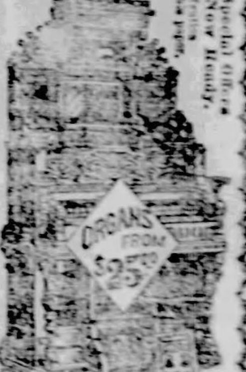

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The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Crib-Biting—Stump-Sucking.

C. E. S., Washington: Crib-biting and wind or stump-sucking closely resemble each other, although a horse may suck wind without cribbing. These habits may be the result of indigestion, idleness. A crib-biter should not be kept in a stall near other horses, as every horse in the stable is likely to acquire the habit. For cribbing the throat may be compressed with a small neck-strap, to be had of most saddlers, or a "bar muzzle" may be used which will permit the horse to eat but not to seize with his teeth. The trouble with the strap is that it may bring on roaring. For wind-sucking, a strap studded with sharp points of iron opposite lower part of the jaw is the best preventive. If the animal has indigestion, or his teeth are not sound or are uneven, there should be looked after. In some cases a young horse, if turned out for five or six months, may forget the habit, but both cribbing and wind sucking are habits that, as a rule, will stick to a horse through life.

Leg Swelled by a Sprain.

A. C. P., New York: As the lameness is all out of the leg of your horse, and the leg is yet swollen and hard, you are advised to rub the part with iodine 1 oz., soap liniment 12 ozs. The leg may be wrapped with flannel.

Sheep Going Blind.

J. F. C., Ohio: Your sheep have a disease of the eye called ophthalmia, caused in the winter time mostly by cold. Wash the eye with a solution of 4 grains of sulphate of zinc in 1 oz. of warm water. Keep the sheep in a dark stable for a day or two. If the eye is much inflamed and the sheep distressed with pain, give a dose of 1 oz. of Eosom salts dissolved in water in which 20 drops of laudanum has been stirred. The sheep must be kept in a comfortably warm place, free from draughts of air. If the fodder is dirty, sprinkle it with a little water.

Knee Sprung.

A. W., North Dakota: Sprains of the joint in young horses occur more frequently when broken to harness than at any other time. The common cause of knee sprung is sprain or injury of the back tendons of the leg. Driving a young horse on a hard road is a fruitful cause of knee sprung. When this trouble is well established, but little can be done. In a recent case remove the shoes, pare down the feet and open the heels. Foment the legs until all fever is out and apply this ointment for four or five days: Iodine ointment, 1 oz.; mercurial ointment, ½ oz. Mix well. After using the ointment wash off with warm water and soap. Dry well and wrap the legs with flannel. Give the horse two or three weeks' rest.

Very Likely Ophthalmia.

B. F. P., Arkansas: If your mule is naturally far sighted, nothing can be done for him, but judging from your letter the editor has a suspicion that he has an attack of periodic ophthalmia or moon blindness. The disease manifests itself in a pronounced way every month or every six months, and generally terminates in blindness. The mule or horse may have a perfectly clear eye until the period of attack comes, when his vision becomes obscured. Recent cases may be cured by giving a dose of aloes and afterward bran mashes if the bowels show constipation, and then administering the following powder on the tongue night and morning: Pulverized calchicum, 1½ ozs.; saltpeter, 2 ozs. Divide into 12 powders. Apply this to the eyelids with a soft feather: Tincture of opium, 1 oz.; rainwater, 1 pint.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Corn-Stalk Disease—Thump—Blackleg.

Editor Blade Farmstead: I saw in your paper of last week a request for any information regarding a remedy for the so-called cornstalk disease. I have thought many times I would write my experience about the disease thinking it might benefit somebody. I will write it now if it finds its way into the waste basket. About 20 years ago when farming in Bureau county we lost over $800 worth of cattle. In the first place there was a yearling found dead in the morning, in a day or two another, then the milch cows, then the steers. In ten days they were dying at the rate of three a day and nothing done for them. We got a man to open three of them to see what part was affected. We found the corn-fodder packed in what some call the manifolds. I saw they needed a laxative and got what I thought would be the best, 10 lbs. sulphur, 5 lbs. Epsom salts, 3 lbs. copperas, 3 lbs. saltpetre, 1 lb. salt. Pulverize and mix. Mix a tablespoonful to a head in ground feed. We made temporary troughs on the ground and scattered the feed. Fed twice a day for a week, then twice a week. If the medicine did not cure what did? They were dying first one a day, then two, then three. Only one died after I commenced giving it, that was the first day. I think this medicine mixed in the salt about one pound to five would prevent the disease, providing they had plenty of water to go to. I consider this a sure cure. Report success.—Subscriber, Lasalle County.

Blackleg.

I will also write my experience about blackleg. About ten years ago, when I went out to feed the calves, I found one dead. I examined it and found on its hind quarter a place which seemed swollen and had that peculiar rattle like paper when I rubbed my hand over it. In a day or two I found another dead, then two, until at last I lost six. This was in August and they were fed on skim milk. I began giving two teaspoons of sulphur, half teaspoon of saltpetre, half teaspoon capperas, a pinch of salt, mixed in their milk, once a day. I lost one that was sick when I commenced giving the medicine. I consider this almost a sure cure. Hope someone will be benefited. Try and report success.

Thumps in Pigs.

I have seen inquiries about thumps in pigs in different papers and have thought I would write, but never got about it. Have had pigs from three to eight weeks old have the disease. I don't know the cause, neither do I care so I save the pig. I seldom lose one. I treat them as if I know they had inflammation of the lungs and almost invariably cure them. I mix mustard and vinegar to the consistency of cream, rub it from the throat down and around over back of shoulders and spine. Give a teaspoon of sulphur and one of epsom salts in its drink twice a day. I think sulphur is the main thing in these cures and no stock raiser should be without it.—Subscriber, La Salle county, Illinois. (The editor will be pleased to hear from you again.)

Rabbits Gnawing Fruit Trees.

Editor Blade Farmstead:—I see in The Blade of November 11 some one asks what to do to keep rabbits from gnawing trees. I have nearly 40 acres in young orchard, have no help only what I hire. Rabbits are bad. I make home-made soap and rub the trees, then tie wheat heads leaving three or four inches of the straw on and dip in hot strychnine water and tie to tree.—E. R. M., Washington. (The above is a good remedy—Ed.)

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MORE DR. HORNE ELECTRIC BELTS SOLD THAN ALL OTHERS COMBINED

THOUSANDS OF PERSONS CURED ANNUALLY BY OUR BELTS

No 4

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Torpid Liver
Throat Troubles
Kidney Complaints
Sleeplessness
Nervous Debility
Lost Vigor
Cold Extremities
Female Complaints
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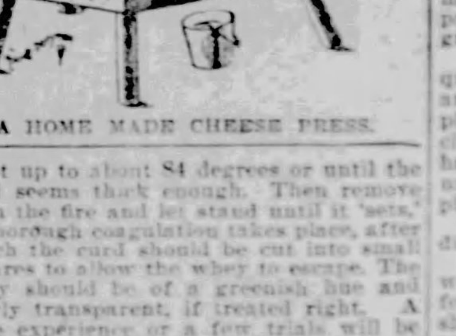
MISCELLANEOUS.

Cheese-Making on the Farm.

"The tables of our farmer friends might nearly always be provided with cheese, pure, good and wholesome, did they use the milk for cheese-making instead of producing 7-cent butter," writes Mrs. A. C. McPherson, in the Ohio Farmer. "Only the simplest and commonest utensils were employed by us in our initiatory efforts at cheese-making. Remodel a peck or half-bushel measure into dimensions suited to the amount of milk at command. Small cheese are to be recommended for beginners. If the necessary amount of milk can not be obtained at one milking, choose a cool spell and add the night's milk in the morning's. Place in any vessel large enough—a large tin wash-boiler answers every purpose—and add the rennet or a tablet, which can be had at most drug stores. A piece of rennet the size of the hand should be previously soaked over night in a pint of water and the whey thus formed added to the milk. Stir well until thoroughly incorporated with the milk.



A HOME MADE CHEESE PRESS.

Heat up to about 84 degrees or until the curd seems thick enough. Then remove from the fire and let stand until it 'sets,' or thorough coagulation takes place, after which the curd should be cut into small squares to allow the whey to escape. The whey should be of a greenish hue and nearly transparent, if treated right. A little experience or a few trials will be all that is needed to get the curd properly 'set.' If the whey seems milky it denotes either a deficiency of rennet or heat. Now dip off all the whey possible before removing the curd. Have ready a square of cheese-cloth previously scalded and rinsed. Spread in a clean basket—the clothes basket will do if no other is at hand. Place this over a tub or any vessel large enough to catch the whey. Dip the curd from the boiler, place in the cheese-cloth, and let drain for awhile. Then with the hands break the curd up fine. Salt to taste, after which gather the cloth by the corners, shake well until well settled in the center of the cloth. Lift out carefully and place in the hoop, which should be placed where it is intended to be put to press. A clean board (square in shape, for convenience in handling) is placed under the hoop, which is bottomless, of course.

"A bench placed on an incline, or even the sink, can be used to put to press on. Fold the cheese-cloth evenly over the curd so as not to wrinkle, and place the "follower" or cover (a circular piece of wood made to fit the cheese hoop or form) over it. A small weight is best at first, afterward changing to a heavier one. Let the curd remain at least 24 hours in press, turning once in that time. A clean, wet cloth is used upon which to turn it. After taking from the press, set away until dry, after which rub with melted butter. Turn every day, and repeat the process of rubbing with melted butter for one week. Place a bandage around the side of the cheese and keep in a cool, dry, airy place secure from flies. A milk safe covered with gauze is just the place. Do not place in the cellar, as mold will soon form, unless the cellar be exceptionally dry and airy. A cheese weighing ten pounds requires not less than five weeks to cure. A longer time insures better flavor, or stronger, and is liked better by the majority of cheese eaters. We never use any coloring matter to tone up our cheese, only pure milk cream and all."

"The Beef Steer and His Sister."

The above appears at the top of the page of the report of the state board of agriculture for the month ending December, 1897, and is significant of the contents of the report which is at once valuable and interesting. Secretary F. D. Coburn is entitled to great credit for his intelligent and able work in bringing the great resources of Kansas before the American people, and the present report will emphasize the fact that Kansas is a wonderful state. Part 1 shows beef production, methods of its masters in Kansas and elsewhere, and its close relation to Kansas prosperity. Part II gives crop and livestock statistics of 1897.

In the introductory to the report the secretary says:

We are told "all flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field."

Nature and men, co-operating, have made Kansas a marvelous blending of pasture and cornfield—the domain of grasses.

In luxuriance, profusion, nutritious qualities and economy of production, hers are nowhere surpassed; this, whether applied to the corn, blue-stem, timothy, clovers and blue-grass of her Eastern half, or sorghums, millets, alfalfa and unpretentious grammas of the fertile plains and higher altitudes beyond.

The premier, prince of all these, is Indian corn.

From these her meats and milk and wealth are made; from these annually, for two decades, she has given to the shambles alone animals having an average home value exceeding $29,000,000, or an aggregate of $583,000,000; out of these and by these her future wealth and all it brings of good must largely come. As finished product and raw material they are symbolized in the beef steer, his sister, and the corn. To their improvement, best utilization and proper recognition this work is dedicated.

Lack of space prevents the editor of the Blade Farmstead from drawing largely upon the report in this issue, but many interesting facts from it will soon be given.

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A New Economist.

There is a good story going the rounds on one of our [illegible] It seems that he is very careful with his yearly [illegible] and although he is entertained everywhere he [illegible] pays his party calls. Even when he takes the girls to the theatre (annually) he walks them there "because it is more healthy."

However, on this occasion he rode with the girl, and just after he had put the money in the slot said:

"It's a funny thing."

"What's a funny thing?" said Miss [illegible]grass.

"Why, have you never thought of it," he answered in measured tones, "that a nickel is the interest on a dollar for a whole year?" Miss Bluegrass fainted. But she walked home!—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Talmage's Sermon.

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

The Geology of the Bible, or God Among the Rocks.

Washington, D. 20.—The throngs coming to Dr. Talmage's preaching services at the First Presbyterian church are all the time increasing and far beyond the capacity of his church to hold. In this sermon, he discusses a subject interesting to all, viz.: "The Geology of the Bible, or God Among the Rocks." The text is II. Samuel vi. 6-7: "And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God."

A band of music is coming down the road, cornets blown, timbrels struck, harps thrummed, and cymbals clapped, all led on by David, who was himself a musician. They are ahead of a wagon on which is the sacred box called the "ark." The yoke of oxen drawing the wagon impelled it. Some critics say that the oxen kicked, being struck with the driver's goad, but my knowledge of oxen leads me to say that if on a hot day they see a shadow of a tree or wall, they are apt to suddenly shy off to get the coolness of the shadow. I think these oxen so suddenly turned that the sacred box seemed about to upset and be thrown to the ground. Uzzah rushed forward and laid hold of the ark to keep it upright. But he had no right to do so. A special command had been given by the Lord that no one, save the priest, under any circumstances should touch that box.

Nervous, and excited, and irreverent, Uzzah disobeyed when he took hold of the ark, and he died as a consequence. In all ages, and never more so than in our own day, there are good people all the time afraid that the holy Bible which is the sacred ark of our time, will be upset, and they have been a long while afraid that science, and especially geology would overthrow it. While we are not forbidden to touch the holy book, and on the contrary, are urged to fondle and study it, any one who is fraid of the overthrow of the book is greatly offending the Lord with his unbelief. The oxen have not yet been yoked which can upset that ark of the world's salvation. Written by the Lord Almighty, he is going to protect it until its mission is fulfilled and there shall be no more need of a Bible, because all the human race will have exchanged worlds. A trumpet and a violin are very different instruments, but they may be played in perfect accord. So the Bible account of the creation of the world and the geological account are different. One story written on parchment and the other on the rock, and yet in perfect and eternal accord. The word "day," repeated in the first chapter of Genesis, has thrown into paroxysms of criticism many exegetes. The Hebrew word "yom" of the Bible means sometimes what we call a day and sometimes it means ages; it may mean twenty-four hours or a hundred million years. The order of creation as written in the book of Genesis is the order of creation discovered by the geologist's crowbar.

So many Uzzahs have been nervously rushing about for fear the strong oxen of scientific discovery would upset the Bible that I went somewhat apprehensively to look into the matter, when I found that the Bible and geology agree in saying that first were built the rocks; than the plants greened the earth; then marine creatures were created from minnow to whale; then the wings and throats of aerial choirs were colored and tuned, and the quadrupeds began to bleat, and bellow, and neigh. What is all this fuss that has been filling the church and the world, concerning a fight between Moses and Agassiz? There is no fight at all. But is not the geological impression that the world was millions of years building antagonistic to the theory of one week's creation in Genesis? No. A great house is to be built. A man takes years to draw to the spot the foundation stone and the heavy timbers. The house is about done, but it is not finished for comfortable residence. Suddenly the owner calls in upholsterers, plumbers, gas fitters, paper hangers, and in one week it is ready for occupancy. Now, it requires no stretch of imagination to realize that God could have taken millions of years for the bringing of the rocks and the timbers of this world together, yet only one week more to make it inhabitable and to furnish it for human residence. Remember, also, that all up and down the Bible the language of the times was used—common parlance—and it was not always to be taken literally. Just as we say every day that the world is round, when it is not round. It is spheroidal—flattened at the poles and protuberant at the equator. Professor Snell, with his chain of triangles, and Professor Varin, with the shortened pendulum of his clock, found it was not round; but we do not become critical of any one who says the world is round. Let us deal as fairly with Moses or Job as we do with each other.

But for years good people feared Geology, and, without any imploration on their part, apprehended that the rocks and mountains would fall on them, until Hugh Miller, the elder of St. John's Presbyterian church in Edinburgh, and parishoner of Dr. Guthrie, came forth and told the world that there was no contradiction between the mountains and the church, and O. M. Mitchell, a brilliant lecturer before he became a brigadier general, dying at Beaufort, S. C., during our civil war, took the platform and spread his map of the strata of rock in the presence of great audiences, and Professor Alexander Winchell, of Michigan University, and Professor Taylor Lewis, of Union College, showed that the "without form and void" of the first chapter of Genesis was the very chaos out of which the world was formulated, the hands of God packing together the land, and tossing up the mountains into great heights, and flinging down the seas into their great depths. Beofre God gets through with this world there will hardly be a book of the Bible that will not find confirmation, either in archaeology or geology. Exhumed Babylon, Nineveh, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Egyptian hieroglyphics are crying out in the ears of the world: "The Bible is right! All right! Everlastingly right!" Geology is saying the same thing, not only confirming the truth about the original creation, but confirming so many passages of the Scriptures that I can only slightly refer to them.

But do you not really believe that story of the deluge and the sinking of the mountains under the wave? Tell us something we can believe. "Believe that," says geology, "for how do you account for those seashells and seaweeds and skeletons of sea animals found on the top of some of the highest mountains? If the waters did not sometimes rise about the mountains, how did sea-shells and sea-weeds and skeletons of sea animals get there? Did you put them there?"

But, now, do you not really believe that story about the storm of fire and brimstone whelming Sodom and Gomorrah, and enwrapping Lot's wife in such saline incrustations that she halted a sack of salt? For the confirmation of that story the geologist goes to that region and after trying in vain to take a swim in the lake so thick with salt he can not swim in—the lake beneath which Sodom and Gomorrah lie buried—one drop of the water so full of sulphur and brimstone that it stings your tongue, and for hours you can not get rid of the nauseating drop—the scientist then digging down and finding sulphur on top of sulphur

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brimstone on top of brimstone, while all round there are jets, and crags, and peaks of salt, and if one of them did not become the sarcophagus of Lot's wife, they show you how a human being might in that tempest have been halted and packed into a white mountain that would defy the ages.

But, now, you do not really believe that New Testament story about the earthquake at the time Christ was crucified, do you? Geology digs down into Mount Calvary and finds the rocks ruptured and aslant, showing the work of an especial earthquake for that mountain, and an earthquake which did not touch the surrounding region. Go and look for yourself, and see there a dip and cleavage of rocks as nowhere else on the planet, geology thus announcing an especial earthquake for the greatest tragedy of all the centuries—the assassination of the Son of God.

But you do not really believe that story of the burning of our world at the last day? Geology digs down and finds that the world is already on fire, and that the center of this globe is incandescent, molten, volcanic, a burning coal, burning out towards the surface, and the internal fires have so far reached the outside rim that I do not see how the world is to keep from complete conflagration until the prophecies concerning it are fulfilled. The lava poured forth from the mouths of Vesuvius, Mount Etna, and Cotopaxi, and Kilauea is only the regurgitation from an awful inflammation thousands of miles deep. There are mines in Pennsylvania and in several parts of the world that have been on fire for many years. These coal mines burning down and the internal fires of the earth burning up, after a while these two fires, the descending and the ascending, will meet, and then will occur the universal conflagration of which the Bible speaks, when it says: "The elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Instead of disbelieving the Bible story about the final conflagration since I have looked a little into geology finding that its explorations are all in the line of confirmation of that prophecy, I wonder how this old craft of a world can keep sailing on much longer. It is like a ship on fire at sea, the fact that the hatches are kept down the only reason that it does not become one complete blaze—masts on fire, ratlins on fire, everything from cutwater to taffrail on fire.

After geology has told how near the internal fires have already burned their way toward the surface, it ought not to be a surprise to us at any time to hear the ringing of the fire bells of a universal conflagration. Oh, I am so glad that geology has been born! Astronomy is grand, because it tells us about other worlds; but I must say that I am more interested in our world than in any other world, and geology tells us all about what it was; its cradle, and what will be its grave. And this glorious geology is proving itself more and more the friend of theology. Thank God for the testimony of the rocks; the Ten Commandments announced among the split rocks of Sinai; the greatest sermon of Christ preached on the basaltic rocks of the Mount of Beatitudes; the Savior dying on the rocks of Golgotha, and buried amid the limestone rocks of Joseph's sepulcher; the last day to be ushered in with a rending of rocks, and our blessed Lord suggestively entitled the "Rock of Ages." I this day proclaim the banns of a marriage between geology and theology, the rugged bridegroom and the fairest of brides. Let them join their hands, and "whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

If anything in the history or condition of the earth seems for the time contradictory of anything in geology, you must remember that geology is all the time correcting itself, and more and more coming to harmonization with the great book. In the last century the "French Scientific Association" printed a list of eighty theories of geology which had been adopted and afterward rejected. Lyell, the scientist, announced fifty theories of geology that had been believed in and afterward thrown overboard. Meanwhile the story of the Bible has not changed at all, and if geology has cast out between one and two hundred theories which it once considered established, we can afford to wait until the last theory of geology antagonizing divine revelation shall have been given up. Now, in this discourse upon the geology of the Bible, or God among the Rocks, I charge all agitated and affirighted Uzzahs to calm their pulses about the upsetting of the Scriptures.

Let me see! For several hundred years the oxen have been jerking the ark this way and that, and pulling it over rough places and trying to stick it in the mud of derision, and kicking with all the power of their hoofs against the sharp goads, and trying to pull it into the cool shade away from the heats of retribution from a God "Who will by no means clear the guilty." Yet have you not noticed that the Book has never been upset?

The only changes made in it were by its learned friends in the revision of the scriptures. The Book of Genesis has been thundered against by the mightiest batteries, yet you cannot to-day find in all the earth a copy of the Bible which has not the 50 chapters of the first copy of the Book of Genesis ever printed, starting with the words, "In the beginning God," and closed with Joseph's coffin. Fierce attack on the Book of Exodus has been made because they said it was cruel to drown Pharaoh and the story of Mount Sinai was improbable. But the Book of Exodus remains intact, and not one of us, considering the cruelties which he would have continued among the brick kilns of Egypt, would have thrown Pharaoh a plank if we had seen him drowning. And Mount Sinai is today a pile of tossed and tumbled basalt, recalling the cataclysm of that mountain when the law was given. And, as to those Ten Commandments, all Roman law, all German law, all English law, all American law worth anything are squarely founded on them. So mighty assault for centuries has been made on the Book of Joshua. It was said that the story of the detained sun and moon is an insult to modern astronomy, but that Book of Joshua may be found to-day in the chapel of every university in America, in defiance of any telescope projected from one roof of that university. The Book of Jonah has been the target of ridicule for the small wit of ages; but there it stands, with its four chapters inviolate, while geology puts up in its museums remains of sea monsters capable of doing more than the one which swallowed the recreant prophet. There stand the one thousand and eighty-nine chapters of the Bible, notwithstanding all the attacks of ages, and there they will stand until they shrivel up in the final fires, which geologists say are already kindled and glow hotter than the furnaces of an ocean steamer as it puts out from New York Narrows for Hamburg or Southampton.

I should not wonder if from the crypt of ancient cities the inspired manuscripts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, in their own chirography, would be taken, and the epistles which Paul dictated to his amanuensis, as well as the one in the apostle's own handwriting. At the same ratio of archaeological and geological confirmation of the Scriptures, the time will come when the truth of the Bible will no more be doubted than the common almanac, which tells you the days and the months of the year, and the unbelievers will be accounted harmless lunatics. Forward the telescope and the spectroscope and the chemical batteries, and critically examine the ostracods of the ocean depths and the bones of the great mammals on the gravely hilltops! And the mightier, and the grander, and the deeper, and the higher the explorations the better for our cause. As sure as the thunderbolts of the Almighty are stronger than the steel pens of agnostics, the ark of God will ride on unhurt, and Uzzah need not fear any disasters upsetting. The apocalyptic angel flying through the midst of heaven, proclaiming to all nations, and kindred, and people, and tongues the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ are mightier than the shying off of a yoke of oxen.

The geology of the Bible shows that our religion is not a namby-pamby, nerveless, dilettantish religion. It was projected and has been protected by the God of the rocks. Religion a balm? O, yes. Religion a shooting power? O, yes. Religion a beautiful sentiment? O, yes. But we must have a God of the rocks, a mighty God to defend an omnipotent God to achieve a force able to overcome all other forces in the universe. Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley is He, combination of all gentleness and tenderness and sweetness. O, yes. But if the mighty forces now arrayed for the destruction of the nations are to be met and conquered, we must have a God of the rocks. The "Lion of Judah's Tribe," as well as the Lamb who was slain." One hundred and thirty times does the Bible speak of the Rock as defense, as armament, as refuge, as overpowering strength. David, the psalmist, lived among the rocks, and they reminded him of the Almighty, and he ejaculates: "The Lord liveth; blessed be my rock." "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." And then, as if his prayer had been answered, he feels the strength come into his soul, and he cries out: "The Lord is my rock." "He shall set me up upon a rock." Would the Bible present a sublime picture of motherly desperation in defense of her children, it shows us Rizpah on the rock for three months, with disheveled hair and wild screams, fighting back vultures and jackals from the corpses of her sons.

Would the Bible set forth the hardness of the heart and the power of gospel to overcome it, it tells us of the "Hammer that breaketh the rocks in pieces." Would our Lord represent the durability of his church against all assault, he says: "Upon this Rock will I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Would he close his sermon on the mount with a peroration that would resound through centuries, standing on a rock so high that it overlooks Lake Galilee to the right, and on a clear day overlooks the Mediterranean to the left, I hear him stamp his foot on the rock beneath him as he cries to the surging multitudes at the base of that rock: "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock." Ah, my friends, we want a swarthy, a brawny religion. We have a great many people who can sit and gently rock the cradle of their infantile hopes, and can faintly smile when good is accomplished, and walk softly through a sick room, and live inoffensive lives, and manage to tread on no one's prejudices; and their religion is at the best when the wind is from the northwest and the thermometer at 70 degree Fahrenheit; and they have spheres, and may God prosper them. But we want in this great battle for God against the allied forces of perdition some John Knoxes, some Martin Luthers—men of nerve, and faith, and prowess, like the Huguenots, and the Pilgrim fathers, and the Dutch at Leyden keeping back the enemy until the tides of the sea come in. Lord, God of the rocks! help us in this awful struggle, in which heaven or hell is bound to beat.

How much the rocks have had to do with the cause of God in all ages! In the wilderness God's Israel were fed with honey out of the rock. How the rock of Horeb paid Moses back in gushing, rippling, sparkling water for the two stout strokes with which he struck it! And there stands the rock with name—I guess the longest name in the Bible—sela-ham-mahlekoth, and it was worthy of a resounding, sesquipedalian nomenclature, for at that rock Saul was compelled to quit his pursuit of David and go home and look after the Philistines, who were making a flank movement. There were the rocks of Bozez and Seneh, between which Jonathan climbed up and sent flying in retreat the garrison of the uncircumcised. And yonder see David and his men hidden in the rock of Adullam and Engedi!

But while I go on with my study of the geology of the Bible, or God among the rocks, I get a more intelligent and helpful idea of divine deliberation. These rocks, the growth of thousands of years, and, geology says, of millions of years, ought to show the prolongation of God's plans and cure our impatience because things are not done in short order. Men, without seeing it, become critical of the Almighty and think, Why does he not do this and do that, and do it right away? We feel sometimes as if we could not wait. Well, I guess we will have to wait. God is never in a hurry, except about two things. His plans, sweeping through eternity, are beyond our comprehension. They have such wide circle, such vastness of revolution, such infinitude, that we can not compass them. Indeed, he would not be much of a God whom we could thoroughly understand. That would not be much of a father who had no thoughts or plans larger than his babe of one year could compass. If God takes millions of years to make one rock, do not let us become critical if he takes twenty years or a century, or several centuries to do that which we would like to have done immediately. Do not repeat the folly of those who conclude there is no God, or that he is not in sympathy with the right and the good, because he does not do certain things in the time we set apart for their performance. Do not let us hold up our little watch with its tiny hour hand and minute hand, and by it try to correct the clock of the universe, its pendulum taking five hundred years to swing this way, and five hundred years to swing that way. Do not let us set up our little spinning wheel beside the loom in which God weaves sunrises and sunsets and auroras. We have the best of authority for saying that "one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Do not expect that Ussah's oxen, even if they do not shy off, but go straight ahead, can keep up with the fire-shod lightnings.

But that was not a slip of the tongue when I said that God is never in a hurry except in two things. Those two things are, when he goes to save a repentant sinner and comfort a praying mourner. The one divine hurry was set forth in the parable of the prodigal son, when it says: "the father ran." He was old, and I suppose had as much as he could do to walk. But the sight of his bad boy coming home limbered the stiff knees and lengthened the shortened pace of the old man into an athletic stride. "The father ran!" Put it into your oratorios. Sound it with full orchestra. Repeat it through all heavens: "The father ran!" O, soul farthest off, come back! and God, your Father will come out to meet you at full run. The other time when God is in a hurry is when a troubled soul calls for comfort. Then the Bible represents the divine gait and swing and velocity by the reindeer, saying: "Be thou like a roe or a young hart on the mountains of Bether." That parenthesis I put in thinking that there may be some repentent sinner who wants to find pardon or some mourning soul who needs comfort, and therefore I mention the two things about which God is in a great hurry.

But concerning all the vast things of God's government of the universe, be patient with the carrying out of plans beyond our measurement. Naturalists tell us that there are insects that are born and die within an hour, and that there are several generations of them in one day; and if one of those July insects of an hour should say, "How slow everything goes! I was told in the chrysalis state by a wondrous instinct that I would find in this world seasons of the year—spring, summer, autumn, and winter. But where are the autumnal forests upholstered in fire, and where are the glorious springtimes, with orchards waving their censers of perfume before the altars of the morning? I do not believe there are any autumns or springtimes." If then a golden eagle, many years old, in a cage nearby, heard the hum of that complaining insect, it might well answer: "O, summer insect of an hour, though your life is so short you cannot see the magnificent turn of the seasons, I can testify as to their reality, for I have seen them roll.

When I was young, and before I was imprisoned in this cage, I brushed their gorgeous leafage and their fragrant blossoms with my own wing. You live an hour; I have lived thirty years. But in one of my flights high up, the gate of heaven open for a soul to go in or a seraph to come out, I heard the choirs chanting, "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God!" And it was an antiphonal in which all heaven responded "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God." O, man! O, woman! so far as your earthly existence is concerned, only the insect of an hour, be non impatient with the workings of the Omnipotent and the Eternal.

And now for your solace and your safety, I ask you to come under the shelter, and into the deep clefts, and the almighty defense of a rock that is higher than you, higher than any Gibraltar, higher than the Himalayas—the "Rock of Ages"—that will shelter you from the storm, that will hide you from your enemies, that will stand when the earthquakes of the last day get their pry under the mountains and hurl them into seas boiling with the fires which are already burning their way out from redhot centers toward the surfaces which are already here and there spouting with fire amid the quaking of the mountains under the look and touch of him, of whom it is said in the sublimest sentence ever written: "He looketh upon the mountains, and they tremble; he toucheth the hills, and they smoke!"

Hie you one and all to the Rock of Ages! And, now, as before this sermon on the Rocks, I gave out the significant and appropriate hymn, "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord," I will give out after this sermon on the Rocks, the significant and appropriate hymn:

'Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee!"

Delicate children! What a source of anxiety they are! The parents wish them hearty and strong, but they keep thin and pale.

To all these delicate children Scott's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites comes with the best of news.

It brings rich blood, strong bones, healthy nerves, and sound digestion. It is growth and prosperity to them.

No matter how delicate the child, it is readily taken.

50c. and $1.00, all druggists.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, New York.

SUBSTITUTION

the FRAUD of the day.

See you get Carter's.

Ask for Carter's.

Insist and demand

Carter's Little Liver Pills

The only perfect Liver Pill.

Take no other,

Even if

Solicited to do so.

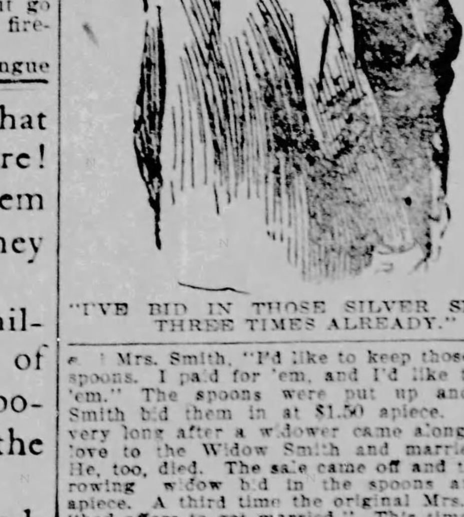
Beware of imitations of Same Color Wrapper,

RED.

Throat Diseases commence with a Cough, Cold or Sore Throat. "BROWN'S BRONCHIAL ROCHES" give immediate relief. Sold only in boxes. Price 25 cents.

MRS. SMITH'S SPOONS.

Carrie Chapman Catt tells a good story about some silver spoons, says the Chicago Inter-Ocean. One time Mrs. Smith married Mr. Smith. Mrs. Smith then discovered, so Mrs. Catt says, that she did not know what to do with Mr. Smith. During the course of a dozen years of happiness Mrs. Smith saved $15. It does not appear whether the money came out of the grocer's bill or the milliner's account. At any rate, Mrs. Smith invested in twelve silver spoons, at $1.50 apiece. In the course of time Smith died. At a sale of the property the auctioneer said: "Now, Mrs. Smith, if there is anything you would especially like to keep we'll bid it in." "Well,"



"I'VE BID IN THOSE SILVER SPOONS THREE TIMES ALREADY."

said Mrs. Smith, "I'd like to keep those silver spoons. I paid for 'em, and I'd like to keep 'em." The spoons were put up and Mrs Smith bid them in at $1.50 apiece. Not so very long after a widower came along, made love to the Widow Smith and married her. He, too, died. The sale came off and the sorrowing widow bid in the spoons at $1.50 apiece. A third time the original Mrs. Smith "had offers to get married." This time, however, she did not look with favor upon the proposition. "I want you to understand," she answered, tearfully, "that I've bid in those silver spoons three times already, and I'm not going to buy them again."

A Gentle Reminder.

O, blow, ye bikers, blow sky high
About the many miles you've done!
'Tis time alone can make years fly—
'Tis time can make the century run.

The Fatal Undertow.

"He said that he expected to be elected by a popular wave of enthusiasm. Did he get the office?"

"No; I think he was carried to sea by the undertow."—Brooklyn Life.

SWEET YOUNG THING.

The woman who fears a mouse, and every daughter of Mother Eve is supposed to, met with a sad fate in a Scovell avenue grocery not long ago, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. She is a young woman of corpulent dimensions, and when the mouse darted across the floor anything like violent exercise was as far from her mind as Saturn from Mars. But when she caught sight of the little whiskered terror she let forth a shriek that jarred down the stove pipe.

IT WAS A MOLASSES BARREL.

Then catching up her draperies in both hands she leaped on to a soap box, and thence with the nimbleness of a mountain goat she sprang to the head of a half-filled molasses barrel. But, alas for her too solid flesh! The head of the barrel gave way, and the maiden with a blood-curdling yell, plunged feet first into the clammy sweetness! They got her out, finally, and then——. But a veil must be drawn on the subsequent proceedings.

QUITE A FALL.

It was a long time since Tom Hooligan and "Gashouse" Joyce, of the Nineteenth ward, had the opportunity of celebrating a local Democratic victory, so on the night of the late election they started out to "paint the town," says the Cincinnati Enquirer. Streaks of carmine were visible in their wake from the corner of Front and Mill streets until they finally joined the cheering and boisterous crowd on Vine street. Later in the night they fell in with the parade, and continued to march around the town until the remnants of the marchers started over the canal, when Joyce and Hooligan turned their faces homeward. By this time they had each accumulated a glorious jag, and as they rolled homeward their yells for Chapman became fainter as drowsiness overtook them. Just how or where they became separated neither can tell, but an open manhole in a short sewer or drain connecting a Front manufacturing establishment with the river figures in the parting of the Nineteenth ward enthusiasts.

The morning after election, while Joyce was on his way to work at the gas-house, he heard a faint cry of "Help! Help!" He was not as yet entirely over the effects of the previous night's celebration; in fact, he was decidedly tipsy, but at the same time realized that the cry came from some one in distress. The cries for help continuing, he looked around vainly endeavoring to locate the quarter whence they came. It seemed as though the voice came up through the ground beneath his feet. At this moment his eyes rested on the manhole of the sewer above referred to, and it dawned upon him that some one had fallen in, as the "cap" or plate having been removed for some purpose, the manhole was open. Resting the palms of his hands on his knees he peered down in the darkness, and finally distinguished a man's form.

"HOOLIGAN, PHAT ARE YE DOIN' DOWN THERE?"

"Who's there?" yelled Joyce.

"I'm there," came an answer from below. "Help me out."

"An' (hic) who the divil (hic) are you?"

"I'm Tom Hooligan."

"In the name av hiven, Hooligan, phat are ye doin' down there?"

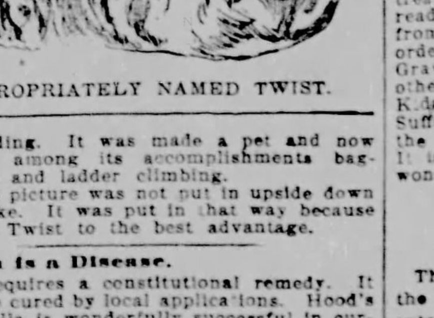
"Phat am I doin' here? Why, blast ye, I fell in here; help me out, I tell you."

"Well, the divil mend ye, Hooligan," said Joyce; "ye musht a fell an awful distance an' hit the ground mighty hard to make a hole in the shtreet like that."

A TOPSY-TURVY SHEEP.

How would you like to have your head hung upside down? How would you like your chin and mouth to be where your eyes and forehead are? That is what happened to "Twist," a sheep belonging to T. K. Weldy, of Philadelphia.

The sheep was born with its head upside down, but it thrived and grew strong, notwithstanding. It was made a pet and now numbers among its accomplishments bag-punching and ladder climbing.



APPROPRIATELY NAMED TWIST.

No, the picture was not put in upside down by mistake. It was put in that way because it shows Twist to the best advantage.

Catarrh is a Disease.

Which requires a constitutional remedy. It cannot be cured by local applications. Hood's Sarsaparilla is wonderfully successful in curing catarrh because it eradicates from the blood the scrofulous taints which cause it. Sufferers with catarrh find a cure in Hood's Sarsaparilla, even after other remedies utterly fail.

HOOD'S PILLS are prompt, efficient, always reliable, easy to take, easy to operate.

No Longer Friends.

Jimmy Tuggar—"Tim Tacks is no friend of mine. I won't speak to him."

His Sister—"Why, what's the matter? You used to be chums."

Jimmy—"We was. But he borrowed me wheel an' punctured me tire."—Detroit Free Press.

At the Foot.

"I hope they don't give my little boy any naughty nicknames in school?"

"Yes, ma, they call me 'Corns.'"

"How dreadful! And why do they call you that?"

"'Cause in our class, you know, I'm always at the foot."—Detroit Free Press.

A Very Good Man.

Allington—Is Pierson, the millionaire, a good church member?

Deacon Wadhams—I should think he was. Why, the rest of us don't have to subscribe hardly anything to keep affairs going.

The Widow Was All Right.

"I want you to take a couple o' chances on a poor woman's cook stove—50 cents a ticket.

"But what's the poor widow going to do without her cook stove?"

"Oh, she's moved into a house where they have a gas range."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION

IT IS EASY TO TELL.

People are not apt to get anxious about their health soon enough. If you are "not quite well" or "half sick" have you ever thought that your kidneys may be the cause of your sickness?

It is easy to tell by setting aside your urine for twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate, scanty supply, pain or dull ache in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder need doctoring.

There is satisfaction in knowing that the great remedy Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, fulfills every wish in relieving weak or diseased kidneys and all forms of bladder and urinary troubles. Not only does Swamp-Root give new life and activity to the kidneys—the cause of trouble, but by treating the kidneys it acts as a tonic for the entire constitution. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists, price 50 cents and $1.00. So remarkably successful has Swamp-Root been that if you wish to Prove its great merit, you may have a sample bottle and pamphlet both sent free by mail. Mention Weekly Blade and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghampton, N. Y. The fact that this liberal offer appears in this paper is a sufficient guarantee.

REBUKING A SNOB.

An exceptionally good thing happened in an electric car going down town the other afternoon, which goes to prove that if the mills of the gods do grind slowly they grind fine, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The car was comparatively full when a very gorgeously dressed female entered and stood in the doorway, looking around haughtily as if she expected every passenger to rise that she might have ample room for her silken skirts. For a wonder, however, they remained impervious to her jet trimmings and only one very shabby looking fellow courteously moved up leaving her a seat beside him.

"MADAME, YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR CHEWING GUM."

The lady glanced at him, and elevating her brows into an expression of aristocratic annoyance she sniffed and sat down on the edge of the seat. The shabby young man, whose ragged clothes—as ragged clothes so often do—conceal from the supercilious world a kindly heart and a gentleman in every sense of the word, flushed, painfully conscious that his forlorn condition was offensive to her.

His embarrassment increased when, as he unconsciously moved, the Lady of the Laces gave a little smothered exclamation and ostentatiously drew her furbelows about her, shrinking away as if she were in proximity to a trash barrel.

Of course none of this was lost on the other passengers and the poor young fellow writhed silently at such a humiliating episode. He ground his teeth when, a few seconds later she drew in her breath and drew out her smelling salts, and with a distressed and exasperated glance at him from under her half-closed lids, held herself away from him at an angle of 45 degrees with her silver bottle to her upturned nose.

The shabby young man sat on uncomfortable, but the insult sank deep, and he wondered how on earth he could get even with her. Suddenly the mills of the gods began to turn, and he noticed that the aristocratic jaws of the Lady of Laces were working with an almost imperceptible movement.

Evidently she had been keeping her chewing gum in her cheek and now found it impossible to do so any longer.

The shabby young man kept a furtive eye on my lady's slowly working jaw, and presently he saw her put her handkerchief to her mouth and then turn and look out of the window. The young man also presently looked out of the window. The glass was up and his heart bounded joyously as he discovered a small ball of chewing gum on the sill.

The grinding had begun, the oppressed hero gave an inward chuckle, and as the children say, "laid low."

My Lady of Laces still inhaled her salts, and still sat like a leaning tower, but there was a brightness in the eye of the shabby young man, and he smoothed out his disreputable coat, giving the collar a set in an independent manner that was excessively annoying to my lady.

Presently she haughtily signaled to the conductor that she wished to get out, and as the car stopped she rose proudly to her feet, gathering up her silken skirts.

But before she had taken two steps the shabby young man leaned forward, and in a clear voice called, "I beg your pardon, madam, but you have left your chewing gum," and he held out to her the small brown wad.

Why, the noise of the Olympian machinery drowned everything else.

Strange New Shrub That Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, Etc. Free.

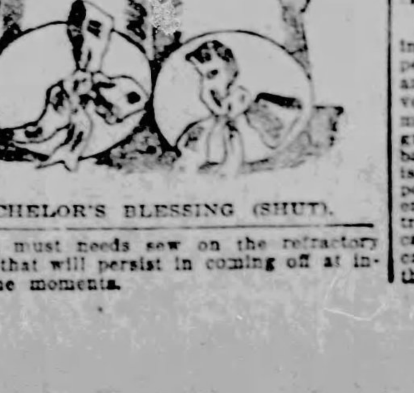
We have previously described the new botanic discovery, Alkavis, which proves a specific cure for diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disorder of the Kidneys or urinary organs. It is now stated that Alkavis is a product of the well-known Kava-Kava Shrub, and is a specific cure for these diseases just as quinine is for malaria. Hon. R. C. Wood, of Lowell, Ind., writes that in four weeks Alkavis cured him of Kidney and bladder disease of ten years' standing, and Rev. Thomas M. Owen, of West Pawlet, Vt., gives similar testimony. Many ladies also testify to its wonderful curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. The only importers of Alkavis so far are the Church Kidney Cure Co., of 418 Fourth avenue, New York, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of Weekly Blade who is a Sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative power.

CHRISTMAS GIFT.

The display at the fancy goods counters of the "bachelor's blessing" solves to a great extent the fair young shopper's problem as to what she shall give at Christmas to her

BACHELOR'S BLESSING (OPEN).

brothers—and other girls' brothers. This handy little case of silk, canvas or leather, containing cottons, needles, needlebook, etc., is of particular value to the traveling man.



BACHELOR'S BLESSING (SHUT).

who oft must needs sew on the refractory buttons that will persist in coming off at inopportune moments.

The Sunday School

LESSON 1, JANUARY 2, 1898.
Jesus and John.

Golden Text: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Matt. 3: 17.

(Matt. 3: 7-17. Memory verses: 13-17.)

Study Isaiah 40: 1-5; Matthew 1 and 2; John 1: 19-34.

7. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8. Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

9. And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

12. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

13. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15. And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Illustrative Applications.

(Editor's Note.—About twenty years ago H. Clay Trumbull originated in these columns a peculiar style of lesson help to which he gave the descriptive title of "Illustrative Applications." These notes did not attempt to show the critical meaning of the lesson text, nor to treat it in the way of popular exposition. They simply sought to apply its obvious meanings to modern life and duty by homely illustrations; to illustrate in this way its applications to all of us. Two years ago it became necessary for their originator to intermit them for a time. In this emergency the Rev. Dr. Wayland Hoyt, a long-time contributor, kindly consented to fill the gap until the original writer of the notes was ready to resume their preparation. In doing so he rendered an important service to the editor, and gave help and gratification to a great multitude of readers. And now that they reappear under the name of their first writer, it is pleasant to know that Dr. Hoyt, whose contributions will be given from time to time in other columns, stands ready to resume his good work, whenever it shall be necessary, for a longer or shorter period.)

When he saw...Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said unto them, Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (v. 7.) If a preacher were calling evil doers to repentance, and there came into his congregation a number of criminals just out of state prison, together with recognized thieves, gamblers, drunkards, and rumsellers, from the haunts of vice, it would be easy, and would seem natural, for him to turn and address words of warning and encouragement to them. Almost any preacher could do that. But if, while he was preaching a revival sermon, there should come in a number of those most prominent in church and society, as if to honor his work by their presence, it would seem strange, and would require courage, to address them as persons of a vile stock, and to ask what induced them to seek reform and hope in that place. It would never do for a preacher who was looking out for new pew-holders to try that method. Only a man who realized that he had just that message from God to give to just those persons ought to attempt anything of the sort.

Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of repentance (v. 8). If a church-member or anybody else has been in the habit of lying, or of defrauding, or of living impurely, or of acting insincerely, it is not enough for him to admit that such things are very wrong, and ought not to be indulged in; nor is it sufficient for him to confess that he has himself sinned in that way, and that he is very, very sorry for it. Repentance includes a great deal more than that. He must show by his whole course that he has turned from his old ways, and is moving in the opposite direction.

Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father (v. 9.) Godly parents, or distinguished ancestors, are something to be grateful for, and to get the benefit of—if we will. But they cannot save us, nor can they even secure respect for us from our fellows, unless we personally deserve it. We see men and women nowadays who are proud of belonging to a "good family," and who tell boastfully, and with truth, of what their fathers did for the state or the church in former generations. How often we are inclined to ask, "would their fathers be proud of these descendants, or would they be bitterly ashamed of them?" The less we brag about our ancestors, unless we are ourselves worthy of honor, the better it will be for the credit of our ancestors.

He will gather his wheat into the garner, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire (v. 12). When a farmer has threshed out his grain, he doesn't want the wheat and the chaff to be stored together, although they have grown together. He puts the wheat into the granary, and the chaff into the fire. If a gold hunter goes to the Klondike and makes a find, he doesn't want the ore to be premanently left as he found it. He wants it to be purified in the furnace, that the choicest part may be saved through fire. What there is of good in our characters is more precious to our Saviour than is wheat to the farmer, or than is gold to the digger, and he will purge it by fire in order to gather it into his store house. He will see that no fire destroys anything that is worth preserving.

Then cometh Jesus unto John, to be baptized. John would have hindered him. Jesus said, Suffer it now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness (vs. 13-15.) He who has most good, is sure to want more good. He who is recognized by others as most worthy, is ever looking for new opportunities of improving himself, or of helping others by action or example. If we think that we are above doing ordinary duties, we are not doing any duties as they ought to be done.

Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway from the water, and lo, the heavens were opened unto him (v. 16). If we want to get a fresh glimpse of heaven, our best way is to attend to the simple and nearest duty which lies in our pathway. If we seek that glimpse by going to hear an eloquent minister preach about heaven, when we ought to be watching by a sick bed, or carrying food to a poor home, we shall miss that glimpse, and shall lose the sense of duty performer. We are never nearer to God than when doing just as we think God would have us do.—H. Clay Trumbull in S. S. Times.

The Wonders of Nature.

We are now told as a wonderful achievement that tomatoes have been grafted on potatoes with the result that the plant produces potatoes underground and tomatoes above. That is not new, however. There is a plant at Washington which for some time has produced spoils underground and civil service reform above.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

All They Could Do.

The bell of the locomotive was clanging incessantly, and the crowd in the little railway eating-room was rapidly thinning.

This was but natural.

Surely the most vivid optimist could not expect a crowd in a railroad restaurant to fatten.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Wonderful Talking Machine

Perfection has at last surely been reached in talking machines. The latest and most perfect machine has just come out. It is loud and clear and reproduces your own or any voice over and over again; speeches from the most noted statesmen, songs from the world's greatest singers, music from the greatest bands. The price of this wonderful machine is but $10.00, and it affords a wonderful opportunity for those who wish to give public entertainments. This machine is now controlled by, and catalogue and full particulars can be had from, Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago. Just cut this notice out and send to them for a book telling all about it.

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TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1897.

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TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers.
ROBINSON LOCKE..........Editor.

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 149,000

DECEMBER EXPIRATIONS.

Only a week remains in which names expiring this month may renew upon terms of our special offer. We hope those interested in the December offer will all renew their subscriptions. We have no anxiety about large clubs. All we want is a renewal of each and every regular subscriber. We request and appreciate three or four new names sent along with a renewal, but large clubs will not be expected from only the few who may be interested in our oil painting offer. While we are adding hundreds of new subscribers every week, we want all our old ones to stay with us.

THE BLADE CHINA SETS.

Under the new offer, The Blade china sets are having a remarkable sale, and are giving the highest satisfaction. Those who have obtained them are delighted with their fine quality and their beauty. They are the best quality we have ever offered, and the price is lower than ever before, and lower than such goods can be purchased for in any other way. Don't hesitate to send in your orders, for you will be delighted with the goods. Read the advertisement elsewhere in this paper.

OUR NEW WATCH OFFER.

Our readers will find a new watch list given in the Publishers' Column, on the fifth page of this paper. The list embraces both cheap grades and standard watches, and, though it is not long, gives sufficient variety to suit all. Order by name; not by number. Read the offer throughout, and you will know exactly what the watches are.

GERMANY'S KAISER.

The English press is laughing at Emperor Wilhelm of Germany, and pleasing itself by calling him a lunatic. He may be mad to a degree, but there is method in his madness. He has adopted a policy of naval increase simply as a necessary adjunct to the pushing of Germany to the front as a great manufacturing and commercial nation. Our English brethren should look behind his stilted and vainglorious utterances, and give attention to the undulying policy, which is directed primarily against England's naval and commercial supremacy.

The Kaiser is meddlesome to a degree, but his meddling seems to be sagaciously directed. It is employed against countries which can not afford to go to war with Germany. Witness the Haytian incident, and the occupation of Kaio Chau. When his desire to meddle concerns one of the world's greater powers, he confines himself to talk, and that of a safe nature. It may alarm or annoy, but affords no tangible ground for remonstrance.

There is one thing the "laughing jackasses" of the English press do not seem to observe. It is, that the men of affairs in Germany's commerce and industry support the Kaiser. A striking evidence of this was given in the recent reception to the emperor by the chamber of commerce of Hamburg, the most important center of German foreign trade. And the masses of the people certainly approve his policy of colonization, and will be with him in the effort, should he make it, to build up in China a German empire such as England has reared in India.

NO CIVIL PENSIONS.

The Blade has several times pointed out that the present system of civil service has one fault—that the life tenure of positions will mean the creation eventually of a civil pension list, which will be perpetual, and increase its burden year by year.

Representative Moody, of Massachusetts, addressed himself to this point on the floor of the House Wednesday. He attacked an order recently issued by the Treasury Department, reducing the salaries of all employes thereof to $900 per year when they reach the age of 70.

Mr. Moody sees in this the first step to the creation of a civil pension list. The next will, of course, be to relieve these clerks, incapacitated by age, from duty entirely, but allow their salaries to go on. The Massachusetts representative believes the time to act is now, before the system has gotten itself intrenched in practice—and he is right.

The remedy is a limited and definite term of office, with the understanding that the incumbent must leave the civil service at its expiration. There is no hardship in this. It is just and right. The country is not ready to shoulder the burden of a civil pension list.

AN ANOMALY.

A point was raised in the discussion over the pension bill in the House of Representatives, which is likely to open up a field for official investigation. It was asserted that there are on the pension rolls a large number of veterans drawing pensions on the ground that they are disabled and physically unsound, who are at the same time carrying life insurance policies.

Now, no life insurance company will insure a man who is physically unsound. All applicants have to undergo a searching medical examination, and the company holds the certification of their soundness of body.

Now, if there are pensioners who are carrying life insurance policies, they must have been sound men when they were insured. If at that time they had obtained pensions, which they still draw, they are certainly not entitled to the latter. It is proposed to introduce a bill directing the commissioner of pensions to ascertain to what extent this charge is true and to drop from the pension rolls all persons who are found to be carrying life insurance.

Mexico will probably instruct for Bryan in 1900.

A NEW VOLUME.

The present issue of the Weekly Blade is the first number of the sixty-ninth volume.

Established in 1836, The Blade was one of the earliest papers published in Toledo, and it is the oldest one in this city still published. It did not reach national prominence until David Ross Locke ("Nasby") assumed the helm, in 1865. It then became a national newspaper, and has maintained its commanding position ever since. Even the lamented death of Mr. Locke did not cause it to lose the place it had won in the hearts of the American people.

The reason of this is because the ideas of Mr. Locke as to the scope of the paper were sound, and have been carried out faithfully. His central thought was that the Weekly Blade should contain, every week, articles of interest to every member of the average family. He desired the news department to be compact, but all-embracing, so as to give the reader a perfect knowledge of what the world had done during the past week—this accompanied by editorial comment which should make clear to the reader the philosophy of the events. He wished a department for women, which would not only be instructive but attractive; the best literature for the entertainment and elevation of the tastes of the people; regular articles on agricultural and mechanical industries; a department to answer queries of general interest to its readers; the markets; the politics and social movements of the day; editorial opinion, forcibly put, on all topics of interest; and, above all, the advocacy of everything calculated to make men and women better.

It was this sort of a paper which he made, and his wisdom and sagacity were evidenced by its phenomenal success. And it is the fact that the paper has been continued on the same lines, keeping pace with the improvement in journalism, which has continued its success, and extended its circulation. The week of his death, in 1888, its circulation was 112,000 copies. Last week it was sent to 149,000 regular subscribers.

The Blade begins its new volume with brighter prospects than ever before, and with a determination on the part of its conductors to make it still more worthy of the patronage of the American people. It is the only great national news and political weekly in the United States, for it is the only one which has circulation in every state and territory of the Union, including far-off Alaska. It will be still more a "household" necessity" in American homes, and devoted to the information, instruction and elevation of its readers.

CONCERNING HAWAII.

Hon. John W. Foster, secretary of state under President Harrison, presents the real point of the Hawaiian case with great force and lucidity. It is this: The day is passing when small, independent states, occupying advantageous commercial or strategic positions, can maintain their independence. The process of absorption by the great commercial and military nations of the world has begun, and will proceed until all barbarous and semi-civilized lands, and the smaller independent countries, will all have passed under the control of some one of the dominant nations.

The whites in Hawaii—the men who compose the present republican government and its supporters—fully realize this fact. They understand that the maintenance of Hawaiian independence, under any form of government, is an impossibility. They bow to the inevitable logic of events, and understand that Hawaii's manifest destiny is to become a dependency of some one of the world's great powers.

All they can do, therefore, is to have the island republic fall into proper hands. Their first preference is for the United States. They have done all they can to promote this, and the matter now lies in our hands. We may accept or decline. But our declination does not mean that the islands shall remain independent. They will pass into the hands of some other country; and, after us, the preference of the Hawaiian government is for Great Britain.

The only reason some other power has not absorbed the islands before this is because the United States long ago took the position that any "interference" with Hawaii by any other nation will be regarded as an unfriendly act. But this would not hold in case Hawaii voluntarily placed herself in the hands of another nation. We could only acquiesce.

The Hawaiian islands are of vast commercial and strategic importance. They are the "cross-roads of the Pacific"—on the line of travel from any point on our western coast to the Orient, and equally important as the half-way station between British America and Australia, India, and Great Britain's Polynesian dependencies. They give the command of the Pacific to any great maritime power which may obtain possession of them. If we decline the offer of annexation, Hawaii will pass into the hands of the greatest naval and commercial nation in the world—our greatest rival, Great Britain.

The whole mass of rubbishy talk pro and con is valueless as argument on which to base a decision when we realize that the simple facts of the case are these:

That Hawaii is determined to place herself under the flag of some first-class power;

That her preference is to become an appanage of the United States;

That if we decline, the same offer will be made to Great Britain—and we may be sure it will be accepted;

And, finally, in that case we will have no right to interfere with Hawaii's voluntary act.

The treaty of annexation should be ratified. If it is not done, the day will come, in the lives of men now in active life, when those who reject it now will be gibbeted by the indignant public opinion of the United States.

The prosperity of the great Northwest is strikingly shown by the fact that the largest gain in earnings for November, reported by the leading railroads of the United States is that of the Northern Pacific road—936,000. The monthly gain of the Missouri Pacific has averaged $518,000 for the last four months, a result which has hardly been attained by any other company.

The English engineers who have been on a strike since July last have declined to accept the proposals of the employers for a settlement. This labor war promises to be one of the most bitter ever waged in free trade England.

Mrs. Croly—"Jennie June"—has been appointed an inspector of public schools in New York. Mayor Strong did a clever thing in thus signalizing the closing days of his term.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

It is reasonably certain that Lieutenant Colonel Ruiz, sent by Blanco into a camp of Cuban insurgents with a proposition to surrender, was put to death summarily for his temerity. It was ordered by Gomez that any Spanish emissary who entered the insurgent lines bearing any proposition of the kind should be at once executed, and Ruiz, though warned, paid the penalty.

This affords proof if any were needed, that the Cuban insurgents will listen to no terms short of independence. The offer of Cuban autonomy is of no consequence. It puts no new phase on the Cuban question. The war will go on, until either Cuban independence is achieved, or Spain crushes the rebellion

The Cuban plan of operations is extremely simple. With the people largely sympathizing with the revolution, it is easy to keep control of practically the whole island, except Havana and the larger seaport towns, and the territory immediately contiguous. Without siege guns, or a navy, the capture and holding of these places is impossible.

The Spanish forces have sent expeditions into the interior time and again. They are met by guerilla tactics, and a general engagement is easily avoided. They are harrassed on flank and rear, scouting and othr detached parties are cut off, and the expedition finally returns, with serious losses, but having accomplished nothing toward the subjugation of the island.

Weyler's plan of making the country a desert, and of gathering the non-combatants into towns and villages, to starve or fall victims to disease, met with such remonstrance from the United States that Spain has promised to abandon it. Whether the "concentrados" will be allowed to go to their homes yet remains to be seen. No serious attempt to relinquish the policy of concentration seems yet to have been made by Blanco.

The insurgents are able to keep up their present plan of campaign indefinitely. They have done it successfully for two years, and now have more men and better equipments than at any previous time Their policy is to wear out the Spaniards and it has been successful so far. Spain has lost tens of thousands of men, has spent millions in money, and has absolutely nothing to show for it.

General Blanco will be no more successful than was Weyler. In the nature of things, he can not be. The only policy that could succeed against the Cuban tactics is to bring such an overwhelming force into the field that the different insurgent armies could be run down, forced to surrender or fight, and if the latter, to conquer and capture them. But Spain has not the men nor the money for such a campaign.

The utter failure of the autonomy scheme is already shown. The United States need wait no longer upon events. The offer of autonomy was a mere stopgap—a diplomatic expedient to prevent intervention by this country. It need no longer be regarded seriously. We have our choice of two courses:

First—We can interfere with a demand to stop the war, and compel a recognition of Cuban independence, on terms which we may obligate ourselves to see fulfilled by Cuba.

Second—We can allow the present status to continue indefinitely, destroying all the material interests of the island and reducing it slowly to a state of barbarism.

These are the alternatives before the United States, and the government must soon decide which it will adopt definitely.

BRYAN'S MEXICAN TRIP.

The Two Republics, the leading newspaper of the City of Mexico, has an article entitled "What Bryan Will Learn," in the course of which it says:

An American silver dollar has less silver in it than the Mexican peso, yet it will buy over two pesos in exchange.

If Mr. Bryan masters not only this fact, but the reason thereof, he will certainly modify his views on the silver question.

The peso is the unit of Mexican money It is the coin of final redemption. Its value depends upon the market value of the silver in it.

The gold dollar is our unit. Its value depends upon the market value of the gold in it. Our silver dollar is held up to the value of the gold dollar; it is, in reality, a form of credit money, analogous to a Treasury note. Its value does not depend upon the market price of the bullion in it.

France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and the other countries of the Latin Union, hold their silver up to parity with gold in the same way that we do. They do not admit silver to free coinage, as they do gold. They refuse to increase the volume of silver, from the danger of its falling to its bullion price, and thus wiping out over half its current value, to the loss of the people in whose hands it is.

This danger is the reason of the opposition to the free coinage of silver in the United States. Mexico has a bimetallic coinage law. She admits both gold and silver to free coinage; but only silver comes to the mint. She has no gold in circulation.

Let us hope that Mr. Bryan will learn some of these elementary facts in finance and abandon his dream of the possibility of creating value by an act of Congress

A BANKRUPTCY LAW.

It is singular that Congress has not long ago enacted a sound bankruptcy law. The Torrey bill, which has been before it in some form for several years, provides for an equitable distribution among all creditors of all the assets in the debtor's possession at the moment he begins to take any steps denoting an insolvent condition. This is right and just, and there is no reason why a law embodying this principle shall not be passed.

At the present time, insolvency is regulated by state laws. There is no uniformity, except that they very generally permit debtors to cheat creditors. This is done by the system which allows preferences among creditors. As soon as a man discovers that he cannot meet his obligations, he makes one or more persons his preferred creditors. After their claims are satisfied, the balance, which does not usually materialize, is divided among the other creditors.

The result of this is that many men have more money after failing than they had before. They have, by preferential credits, transferred to their own pockets the property that really belonged to other people. To stop this, the Torrey bill provides that a man shall be declared a bankrupt as soon as his conduct discloses the existence of such a condition. Naturally all persons anxious to swindle their creditors are opposed to it. All the commercial interests of the country are in favor of it, and Congress should not let this session pass without action.

TIN PLATE AND PROTECTION.

The difference between theory and fact is often startlingly great, and there is an excellent proof of this in the history of the tin plate industry in the United States since 1890.

That year the McKinley tariff law was passed. At that time there was not a manufactory of tin plate in the United States; every pound we used was imported from Wales, where the industry had reached its highest development.

Every one will remember that the duty on tin plate was the point of bitterest assault by the Democratic free traders. We were told that tin plate could not be manufactured here; that the duty would be a tax on all tin plate consumed in this country; that a lot of manufacturers would make fortunes out of the pockets of the American people; that the duty was simply "legalized robbery" of the latter.

Does not every reader of The Blade remember the bitter fight waged by the Democrats on this point? The Congressional elections in many districts in 1890 were carried by the Dmocrats on these arguments; and there is no question but that the Presidential election of 1892 was largely influenced by the tin plate war.

Now let us take the official figures, made to a Democratic secretary of the Treasury by a special agent of the department, giving a comparative statement of the manufacture of tin plate in this country from 1892 to 1896 inclusive, and see how the Democratic free trade theories have stood the test of practical experience. The figures for 1897 are not yet available.

First, as to price. The free traders vehemently insisted that "the tariff is a tax;" that the duty on tin plate would be added to the price, thus making every man who bought a tin cup, or tin plate in any form, pay tax for the benefit of a few rascally manufacturers in this country. Well, here are the figures:

In 1890, before the passage of the McKinley law, imported British tin plate cost $4.25 a box. For a few months after that bill became a law, the price rose to $4.85 a box, which included the duty. Then American manufacturers speedily began to undersell this, and as the number of factories in this country increased, the natural play of competition began to reduce the price, and tin plate, instead of selling at $4.25 a box, as it did before the McKinley tariff, now sells at $3.15 a box. Is the tariff a tax? Is protection a burden?

Now, as to the theory that tin plate can not be made in America; that in any case we must get the bulk of our supply from Great Britain. But the report above cited informs us that the number of mills in this country in 1896 was 179, in 1897 they increased to 198, with a total product in that year of 307,228,621 pounds of tin plate; while the number of mills has this year increased to 260, with many more projected. The largest tin plate mill in the world is at New Castle, Pennsylvania. The following figures show the total number of pounds of tin plate manufactured in the United States in each of the five years under consideration:

	Pounds.
1892	13,646,719
1893	99,819,202
1894	139,223,467
1895	193,801,073
1896	307,228,621

Does this look as though tin plate can not be manufactured in the United States?

Tin plate is simply thin steel or iron sheets called "black plate," coated with tin. There was a Democratic howl raised in 1891 and 1892 because Niedringhouse, of St. Louis, and some other manufacturers, purchased English black plates, and merely did the coating themselves. This was denounced as a "fraud." Well, it is just what the Welsh and Cornish manufacturers over in Great Britain do. They buy the black plate of iron mills in the north of England, and do only the coating themselves. But the American manufacturers are now making nearly all the black plate they use. The following figures, from the report mentioned above, give the number of pounds of American black plate and of imported black plate used in each of the five years under consideration by American tin plate factories. Note what they show:

	American Black Plate.	Foreign Black Plate.
1892	9,296,553	4,350,166
1893	43,599,724	56,219,478
1894	85,968,202	53,255,265
1895	160,576,934	33,224,139
1896	303,002,098	4,226,523

Probably the amount of foreign black plate used in 1897 was not over three-fourths of 1 per cent of the total, and it is believed that, in the fiscal year just beginning, the United States will begin to export tin plate.

There are over 20,000 men employed in the industry where in 1890 there was not one. With their wives and children, over 100,000 people are supported by that industry. They buy their food of our farmers, their clothing of our merchants. All their expenditures are in this country, thus benefiting it. And tin plate is cheaper, under protection, than it ever was before! There never was a more complete demonstration of the fallacy of free trade theories than this.

"DOC" NORTON'S MOUTH.

The dapper little Democratic representative from the Thirteenth Ohio district has a nimble tongue, which has gotten him into difficulty. In the debate upon the pension appropriation bill, the loquacious Norton declared that by rules of law and the regulations of the pension office, "you have made most soldiers either stand upon the rejected roll, or commit moral and legal perjury to reach the roll."

Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, went to the official stenographer to see whether he had understood Norton's words aright. Finding it so, he called the Ohio Democrat to account. Norton dodged by saying he had used the word "many," instead of "most."

Then Norton changed the word in the report to his speech in the Congressional Record. Hepburn protested again, and after a hot little debate the House stood by the official stenographer, and Norton's speech will appear with the word "most" unchanged.

It is a small matter in itself, merely illustrating the fact that men of the Norton stripe talk so much that they can not and do not weigh their words. But we are much mistaken if Dr. Norton shall not have a very lively time in next fall's congressional campaign in endeavoring to square himself with the old soldiers and their friends over in the Thirteenth district.

There are only four hours of daylight up on the Klondike just now, and twenty hours of night. No trouble to get the boys up for breakfast, we imagine.

It is said the peons of Mexico believe Bryan was elected President, and that this is the reason they turn out to see him.

THE NASBY LETTERS.

Some three or four years ago we printed 60,000 copies of the Nasby Letters. In that volume are reprinted all the letters which were of a general nature, and it is the only collection of them ever issued.

We announced then that we would not sell a copy, nor did we. We gave a copy however, to any one who sent $1 for a copy of the Weekly Blade one year, and asked for the book, sending it postage free.

We have about 200 of the edition left. When they are disposed of, the book will be out of print, and therefore unobtainable. We will not sell them, but we will give a copy of the Nasby Letters to any one who sends us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year, and asks for a copy of the book.

Be quick in ordering, for they will soon be all gone. Address: "The Blade, Toledo, Ohio."

The project for the creation of a new department of commerce meets with much favor. Boards of trade and other commercial organiations in Chicago, Milwaukee, Quincy and other Northwestern cities are the latest to send their indorsements. Senator Frye, chairman of the commerce committee of the Senate, introduced a bill creating such a department at the last session of Congress, and will urge it at this session. The committee will grant hearings soon to commercial bodies from various parts of the country. The bill provides that the head of the department shall be a member of the cabinet, but for reasons of economy Congress may decide to create a bureau of commissioners instead of a department.

The next national encampment of the G. A. R. will be held a little later than has been usual. The dates are September 5 to 10 for the Cincinnati gathering of 1898.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

The Week's Business.

It is believed that the United States never had a busier week than this. Until this year the champion week for holiday business has been the corresponding week of 1892. But the week now closing shows payments through banks 2.5 per cent larger than those of that week in 1892. The production of iron, of woolens and of boots and shoes is the greatest in the history of the nation.

Figures on November's merchandise exports just have been summed. They show a total of $115,630,260. This brings the excess of exports for the five months of the fiscal year up to $229,212,401. The two weeks in December have kept up the merry pace, and Dun estimates the excess for the six months at $289,000,000.

The United States is exporting more wheat and corn than ever before, and at remunerative prices.

Cotton is the weak point in the national activity. The price in New Orleans is down a full cent per pound below the actual cost of raising the cotton. The result is that the year's agricultural work in the cotton states has been done at an actual loss; and the planter finds himself deeper in debt than when the season began. This has been a very hard year throughout the South. There is loud complaint of dearth of money throughout that section.

Secretary Gage's Bill.

The currency reform bill submitted to the banking and currency committee Thursday and introduced in the House is merely the plan proposed by Secretary Gage in his annual report put into the form of an act. The secretary's recommendations have been received kindly by the friends of sound money throughout the country, but they have not aroused much enthusiasm. It is generally recognized that, while they are praiseworthy in spirit and purpose, they do not go far enough to cover the real needs in currency reform. Perhaps they go farther than Congress will be willing to go now, but it will require a measure more radical and comprehensive to unite the sound money sentiment of the country in its unqualified support. But along with the other bills that will be considered by the committee, it may give some assistance in the working out of a final measure of reform.

The Wolcott Commission.

Only a very languid degree of interest was manifested in the subject of international bimetallism when it was brought up in the Senate last week upon a demand for information, regarding the instructions given by the President to the International monetary commissioners and any report made by them to the President. Senator Wolcott, the chairman of the commission, said that as a matter of fact that body had not made any report to the President. The English government, he said, had published a resume of the proceedings of the commission in Great Britain, and that document would soon be here. Furthermore, Senator Wolcott informed the Senate that he hoped soon to make a statement regarding the work of the commission, but that that statement would be unofficial, though it would contain information which would be of value to the Senate. The commission, he added, had no intention of making a report at present, and he did not know when the report would be made. The resolution calling for information went over until January 15, with the consent of the mover, Senator Allen, of Nebraska. One of the features of the discussion was the declaration of the Populist Senators participating therein that international bimetallism was a dream, a view of the subject widely held by many who do not agree with them as to the proper solution of the question of a monetary standard.

Fur Seals Again.

The sealing question is to the fore in Congress once again. In the Senate, after a sharp discussion, Senator Davis, from the committee on foreign relations, has secured the passage of a bill prohibiting the killing of fur seals in the waters of the north Pacific ocean. Mr. Davis explained that his bill was in aid of diplomatic negotiations, and said he understood that an amicable arrangement concerning the fur-seal industry was now in process of negotiations by the representatives of the United States, Great Britain and Japan, and that the passage of the bill would materially assist the representatives of the United States in the pending negotiations. Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, made an effort to secure the adoption of an amendment providing for the killing of all the seals as a means of settling the question once for all. This amendment was voted down, and the bill was passed by a majority of over two-thirds. It was subsequently passed in the House by a large majority.

Manufacturers' Convention.

The important position which the United States is assuming as an exporter of manufactured goods will invest with peculiar interest the subjects to be discussed at the third annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers to be held in New York on January 25 to 27, inclusive. Local committees of the association doing business in and around Greater New York are and have been busily engaged in completing arrangements for the reception and entertainment of visiting manufacturers. While the matters discussed by the convention usually have a very wide range, it is safe to say that the subject of possible trade extension in South America will receive considerable attention. The sample warehouse at Caracas, in Venezuela, will no doubt be discussed, as will the subject of improving mail and transportation facilities between this country and those south of us. It is said to be the intention of a number of Philadelphia manufacturers and business men to lay before the national association for approval and co-operation at its January meeting the project of establishing a line of steamers between Philadelphia and Rio Janeiro and Buenos Ayres.

The Southern Bankers.

A convention of Southern bankers which has been in session at Atlanta, Ga., has in certain directions taken strong ground in the advocacy of measures looking to the reform of the monetary system of the country. The convention suggests such a reformation in the banking and currency laws of the country as will take the banking business out of politics, take the government out of the banking business and avoid the expense and danger attendant upon government issues by the retirement and cancellation of the greenbacks and treasury notes of 1890, for which the substitution of banknotes is suggested. Furthermore, the convention enumerates, among desirable results to be attained, the keeping every dollar of currency good enough to pass current in every land, the reduction of our several different kinds of money to two, viz.: specie and banknotes, the securing of lower and equalized rates of interest throughout the United States, and the making all banks equal under any law of the United States providing for banks of issue as interpreted by resolutions adopted by the convention. This latter suggestion contemplates the inclusion of state as well as national institutions among banks of issue. This is a step which the country at large, mindful of past experience, is not yet prepared to take.

Currency Reform Must Pass.

Senators and representatives who have been importuning the President for offices for their friends received little satisfaction. The President informed a Western Senator that he did not think the subject of offices should be considered as important as several other matters with which Congress will have to deal. He explained that he was not inclined to dispose of the patronage still remaining until Congress had properly dealt with other matters of public interest. The President talked a good deal about the necessity for economy, and appeared anxious that members of Congress should give him assurances that they would not swell the appropriations. He pointed out to his visitors that upon the record made by the present Congress the Republican party will have to go before the people in November next on state and congressional elections. He also manifested a desire to have Congress acquiesce in his plan for the establishment of a currency commission on one of the lines suggested by him in the message sent to Congress on the last day of the extra session.

Tobacco Going Up.

The leaf tobacco market is showing great strength and much animation this week. The banner price for the new crop was reached Friday at Louisville in the sale of two Clark county hogsheads at $21.50 a hundred pounds each. Two other hogsheads sold at $20.50 each. These are the highest prices paid on any market this year. Large purchases are being made in the country by a big Western manufacturer. Receipts are much below those of last year.

Cotton Exports to Japan.

The remarkable increase in the exports of our cotton to Japan is one of the interesting features of our foreign trade. For November, for example, they amounted to over seven and a half million pounds, against little more than three and a quarter million pounds in the corresponding month last year. Some of this gain may be attributed to the stimulus of lower prices in the United States this year, but more of it is owing to the growth of cotton spinning in Japan, and it is, therefore, more than a temporary development. The Island Empire still gets most of her cotton from India, but with the entrance we have now effected into her market we ought to be able to alter the present proportions in time. If China paid more attention to her opportunities for cotton growing we might find a competitor that we could not successfully meet, but there is little probability that she will do so for a long time to come.

Germany in China.

Additional and peculiar interest attaches to the occupation of the Chinese forts at Kiao-Chau by German troops by reason of the fact that in the secret treaty between Russia and China it was provided that the railroads there-in authorized, and which are in effect extensions of the Siberian railway system, should be extended to this very port, which is near the entrance of the Gulf of Pichili and can be made to command the approach to Tientsin and Pekin, and that if at any time Russia found it necessary she might lease the port and fortify it. The place has been regarded, therefore, as substantially a Russian base of naval operations in Eastern Asiatic waters, and if its seizure by Germany is more than a merely temporary disciplinary act the situation evidently has taken a new and interesting turn. What the move means nobody, as yet, seems to know.

The Hill Campaign.

The British campaign against the hill tribesmen in the Chitral region has proved a costly mistake, as many prophets predicted it would The largest British army ever gathered in India has marched into a wild, broken country, destroying a few huts and block-houses, and retreated, with heavy losses. The moral effect of the campaign is that of triumph for the hill warriors. And loss of prestige is the one thing British power in India cannot endure. There was no visible gain in the "forward policy" on the northern frontier to justify the obvious risks and expense of incurring the settled enmity of the indomitable mountaineers.

Treaty of Peace Signed.

The negotiations for peace between Greece and Turkey began between the representatives of the great powers and Tewfik Pasha, Turkish minister of foreign affairs, on June 3, at Constantinople. The demands of the victorious Turk were laid before them, likewise the bitter protests of defeated Greeks. First of all, Turkey wanted Thessaly. She said it was justly hers by conquest. She had played for it and won. The ambassadors were politely requested to deliver the goods. Moreover, Greece had put her to great expense in prosecuting a war she claimed was forced upon her, and thought that about the right indemnity would be $50,000,000. Turkey was hard up for a fleet, and requested that Greece should hand over her war vessels.

There was some hesitancy on the part of the negotiators, and Turkey manifested her displeasure at the unseemly delay by piling reinforcements into Thessaly. Between 200,000 and 250,000 troops stood there ready to coerce if necessary. Most of them are there yet.

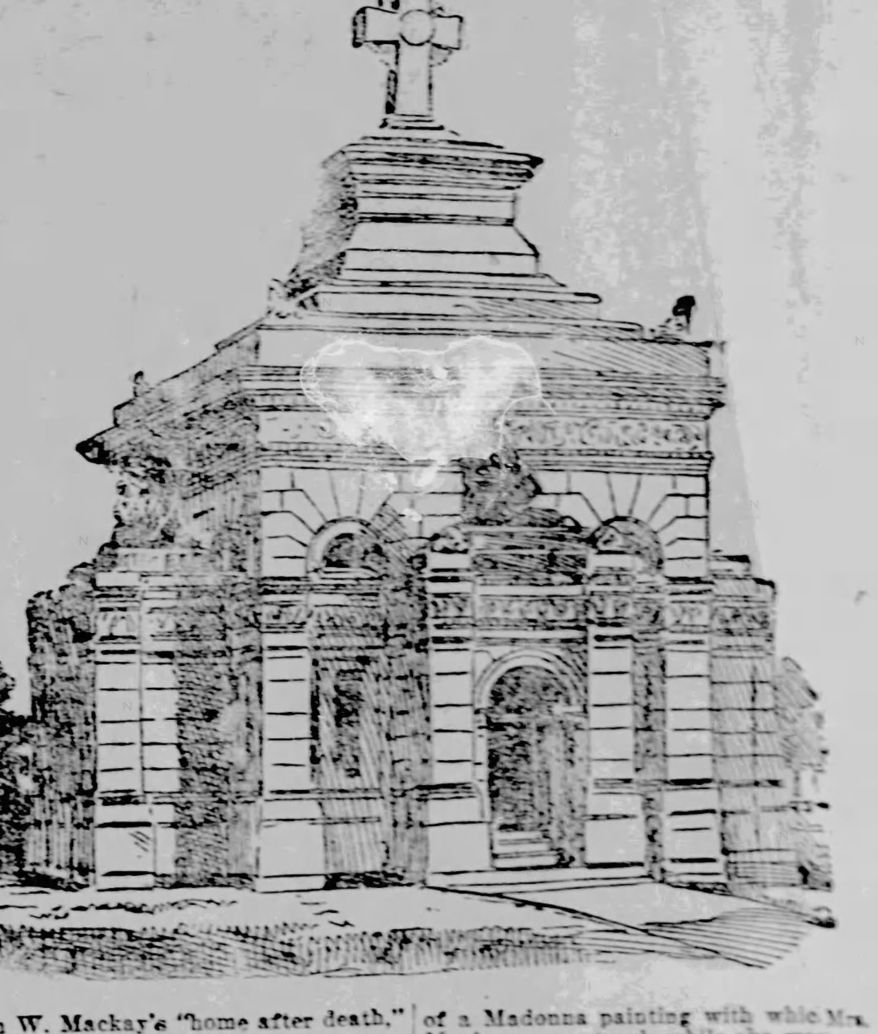
Meanwhile the Turkish statesmen played their game of diplomacy. Turkey wouldn't budge. The powers were insistent. Negotiations were consuming much time and proceeding inauspiciously. Correspondence with home governments necessitated a slow gait.

Finally a treaty was patched up and signed at Constantinople. Turkey's demands were only partially complied with; she could not get Thessaly, not one-half of her demanded indemnity was granted, yet there was a tremendous fuss at Athens. The more reckless counseled a renewal of hostilities, but better judgment prevailed. Greece had learned the wisdom of sobriety. But the ministry had to resign.

Now that the treaty has been signed, it is proper to note just what Turkey's victory has brought her. At the outset she demanded Thessaly. She will not get that, but she will get the strategic mountain passes, and promises to evacuate Thessaly within a month. Turkey also demanded $50,000,000 indemnity. This she will not get, but $18,000,000 will be paid to the victor. A syndicate will take charge of Greek finances to secure the payment of the indemnity. The demand for the cession of the Greek fleet has been denied in toto.

Of course the terms of the treaty are not just satisfactory to either party, but the compact has been signed by all concerned and the books are closed.

JOHN W. MACKAY'S "HOME AFTER DEATH."



John W. Mackay's "home after death," is rapidly nearing completion. The Mackay tomb, or mausoleum, near the Ninth avenue entrance of Greenwood cemetery, Brooklyn, will soon be completed. This structure, which Mr. Mackay has erected after the fashion set by several of New York's prominent men, who built their tombs before they died, is one of the noblest in the necropolis. The proximate cost will be $300,000. The design was selected by Mrs. Mackay, and John R. Lowe, a sculptor of no small fame, was the man who made the design. Within the tomb is an altar at which any visitor may worship. In the material of the altar is wrought a reproduction in marble of a Madonna painting with which Mrs. Mackay was struck while she was traveling over the continent. The Mackay mausoleum is, within, like a miniature church auditorium. No evidences of the real character of the place appear. It is lighted and heated with electricity, and at least 50 persons could attend mass said in its space. Yet in no way is it catacomb-like. There are 22 crypts for bodies. The interior is lined throughout with marble, with a wainscoting of blue Belgian capped with Connemara green. The roof is formed of a tremendous slab of granite—the largest ever quarried in this country. It came from Maine, and its dimensions are 22 feet square by 16 inches thick. Its weight is 50 tons.

UNTHANKED.

"Henrietta," said Mr. Meekton, "there is one thing that I wish to say to you frankly. There is one subject over which I do not desire any shadow of doubt to fall. So far as

"THAT'S JUST LIKE A MAN."

the affairs of this family are concerned, you are to have your own way in every particular."

Then he stood back and waited for a smile of joy to brighten her face. But there was a frown.

"Of course," she answered, "that's just like a man. If anything goes wrong you want to be sure of having somebody to blame for it."

THE IDOL STOOD.

It was a Buddhist temple in Burmah, which was demolished by a tree. And the latter is still growing, but the stone statue of the god still stands, and the tree cannot hide the face of the Buddha.

The December Strand publishes the story of this strange freak of nature. The tree was a fig (of the semi-sacred kind). It began its work slowly and irresistibly. It took the tree 500 years to uproot the temple. The tree and the god are still fighting it out.

LIZARD WITH A FRILL.

This animal is a lizard. He is not wearing an Elizabethan ruff because it is the fashion, but because it is apparently attached to him.

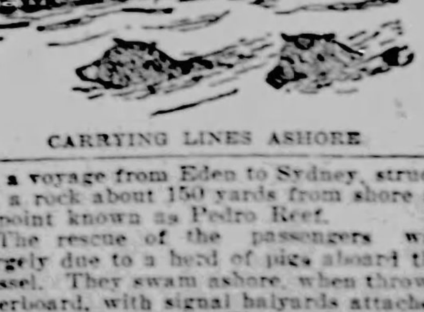
The creature is not, in spite of the winglike protuberances, an especially angelic

WEARS AN ELIZABETHAN RUFF.

creature. He lives in Africa, is about three feet long and known to fame as the "frilled lizard."

HOGS AS LIFE SAVERS.

The Illawara Company's steamer Kamuheaka, one of the best known vessels on the Australian coast line, while



CARRYING LINES ASHORE.

on a voyage from Eden to Sydney, struck on a rock about 150 yards from shore at a point known as Pedro Reef.

The rescue of the passengers was largely due to a herd of pigs aboard the vessel. They swam ashore, when thrown overboard, with signal halyards attached to their hind legs. The porkers were heroes.

VARIOUS FACTS.

Accommodation for bicycles has been added to the attractions of the theatre at Namur, in Belgium.

The alumni of the University of Minnesota will erect a statue of John S. Pillsbury on the college campus.

The Rhode Island Woman's club pays each year the tuition of one student to the woman's college at Brown University.

William Butler, judge of the United States District court at Philadelphia, is seriously ill. He is in his seventy-fifth year.

A well-known society woman of London has an album containing photographs of all her costumes for the past ten years.

Frederic Harrison has begun agitating for a worthy national celebration in England in 1901 of the millenary of the death of the great King Alfred.

Senator McMillen, of Michigan, possesses one of the finest collections of paintings in this country. He is a great admirer of American art.

Dogs kept exclusively for guiding blind persons or for tending sheep or cattle on a farm, or by shepherds, are exempt from taxation in Great Britain.

The rate at which the Zulus can travel upon emergency is astonishing. Some will cover as much as fifty miles in six hours. Eight miles an hour is an ordinary pace.

Railroad supplies to the extent of $1,000,000, comprising machinery, rolling stock and rails, are required by the Norwegian state railroad department, and tenders are about to be asked for.

In the jail yard of a Mexican prison the warden has caused a phonograph to be placed which repeats to the convicts the charges made against them in the voices of their victims.

One of the dry goods stores in Boston has substituted the cry "teller" for "cash," to the great delight of the natives, who seem to think it a choicer word for use in a cultured city.

A Paris inventor believes that he can calm the ocean waves round a vessel by spreading over them a thin cotton or silk net, made unsubmergible by being dipped in a certain chemical solution.

Francis S. Brown has resigned as commander of the Pennsylvania Naval Battalion, because business affairs demand more of his time. Mr. Brown is president of the Philadelphia Yacht club.

The inventor of the linotype machine, Ottman Mergenthaler, is spending the winter at Deming, N. M., where he is suffering from consumption, and it is feared he will not live through the winter.

The city of Baltimore, with nearly a half of the total population of the state of Maryland, has less than one-fifth of the membership of the house of delegates and about one-ninth of the membership of the state senate.

Miss Columbia Rivera has been licensed as a practicing physician, and appointed to the women's ward of St. Andre's hospital, in the City of Mexico. She is the first woman in Mexico to be appointed to such a position.

The national government commissioners to the Omaha exposition have chosen W. V. Cox as secretary, in which capacity he will have the arrangement of the government exhibit. Mr. Cox occupied a like position at the Tennessee exposition.

Boston people are to hear F. Marion Crawford lecture on Leo XIII and the Vatican, under the auspices of the John Boyle O'Reilly Reading Circle. He will also deliver the same lecture in Sanders theatre for the Cantabrigia club of Cambridge.

E. J. White, a pioneer trapper and hunter of Minnesota, stakes his reputation on the prediction of a cold winter. He says the wild animals, deer particularly, have especially thick coats this year, and that the muskrats are building their houses high and with thick walls—signs which, he says, have never failed within his experience.

The following is a copy of a sign in a remote Georgia county: "A Few Bright Scholards Takin to Lern Writin, Spellin and Figgers." A traveler, noticing the sign, asked the principal where he had graduated. The principal pointed to a cotton field nearby and said: "Right over thar, sir, behind a Georgia mule, under a July sun."

The Philadelphia board of education will probably establish in connection with the public high schools a "school of commerce," where pupils will be taught the branches—chiefly geography and modern languages—fitting them to engage in the work of developing foreign trade. Particular attention will be given to the South American field.

The claim is made by a New York man that he has kissing and hugging fits, when he finds it impossible to resist the temptation to hug and kiss any good looking woman who comes his way. The police magistrate informed him that he would make the assessment $10 a fit, and he had to pay for one on the spot. There has been none since.

The fish's belly is white and his back green because in swimming about in the water the white belly is the color of the light shining through the water, hence protects him from his enemy below. His back being green makes him on the other hand appear from above as part of the green water, and is his safeguard from hawks and other enemies.

Onions are stated to be almost the best nervine known. No medicine, it is claimed, is so useful in cases of nervous prostration and there is nothing else that will so quickly relieve and tone up a wornout system. Onions are useful in all cases of coughs, colds and influenza. Eaten every day, they soon have a clearing and whitening effect on the complexion.

Railroad supplies to the extent of $[illegible], comprising machinery, rolling stock of rails, are required by the Norwegian state railroad department, and tenders are about to be asked for. Any American firms wishing for the contract and requiring details in connection therewith would do well to communicate without delay with the United States consul at Christiania.

Lieut. Olufsen, a Dane, who returned last spring from Central Asia, will next year fit out a new expedition to the Pamirs in order to make geographical and ethnographical explorations in the northern part of the Wakhan valley. The expedition will be supported by the Danish government out of the Carlsberg fund, and will be absent for two years. The party will include [illegible] experts.

Frederic Mistral, the great Provencal poet, is about to present to his well-beloved country, of Provence a museum, which is intended to illustrate the history, manners, and customs of Provence and Languedoc. This museum is at Arles, and is lodged in an old convent in the Place St. Trophime. The opening ceremony will take place next spring, when the Felibriges and Cigales will foregather in their thousands.

Publishers' Column.

WATCHES BY MAIL.

The Blade offers its readers this season a new list of watches at less than ordinary retail prices, sent postpaid by mail on receipt of prices marked below. The list embraces two or three cheap but good watches, and three or four better grade of time keepers.

THE KNICKERBOCKER.

A stem winder and stem-setter, having all the modern appliances known to watchmakers' art. The case is solid nickel. It is made on the celebrated thin model plan. Remember, this is not a small clock, commonly called a watch by unscrupulous advertisers, but a highly jeweled nickel movement, made by one of the most celebrated watch manufacturers in America. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer, and if not found exactly as represented, this guarantee is assumed by us. A watch like this a generation ago would have cost $20, if it could have been produced, but the fact is it contains appliances unknown at that time. Each watch has been thoroughly adjusted, and will be sent in perfect running order.

Price $2.00
Same in gold filled hunting case, guaranteed 5 years 6.00

THE SETH THOMAS WATCH.

A genuine American watch, jeweled and guaranteed an accurate time piece. Nickel, open face, stem wind and stem set, made on the celebrated thin model plan. Price, $4.00.

WALTHAM OR ELGIN, OPEN FACE.

Men's open face gold filled watch, either engraved or engine turned, with Waltham or Elgin works. In the works are seven jewels and all improvements, including expansion balance, plain regulator, etc. The manufacturers guarantee this case to wear 15 years. This watch is open face only, stem winder, pendant set. Price by registered mail, $11.50.

WALTHAM HUNTING CASE.

This watch is the celebrated thin model watch—we mean by thin model that it does not bulge the pocket out of shape or give people the impression that you are carrying a clock movement. The case is made of two plates of solid gold, so thick that they will last fifteen years. Between these plates is a thin sheet of stiff composition metal, the purpose of which is to protect the works from damage when the watch is pressed or struck. This feature saves many a bill for repairs—a great point for people at a distance from reliable watchmakers. The ring joints, thumb piece, and all parts subjected to constant wear are solid gold, which, of course, will wear for generations. The works contain compensation expansion balance, safety pinion, stem winding and pendant setting apparatus, and many other improvements. The movement is made by the celebrated Waltham Watch Co., and is perfect in construction and durability. This watch comes in hunting case only. Price, $15.00.

SOLID GOLD, LADIES' SIZE.

This watch is a handsomely engraved solid gold case, warranted 14k. U. S. assay. We use no foreign movements in this watch, but all are either Waltham or Elgin "American" movements according to the wish of the purchaser. The works are jeweled and have compensating balance and safety pinion. This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship.

Each watch is a stem winder and setter, and has a tempered hair spring. Price, $20.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1.25
½ dozen teaspoons	.85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2.00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks	1.15
½ dozen table knives	2.25
1 dozen table knives	4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

SHERIDAN'S RIDE.

Our latest picture is Sheridan at the Battle of Five Forks, size 10x15 inches, and executed in colors. Price 15 cents. This picture cannot be purchased at an art store for less than 75 cents.

Address with remittance in current funds,

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS

Splendid Offer to Lady Reader of The Blade.

READ THE OFFER:

The above pattern or patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. We will fill orders from any person, whether a regular or occasional reader of The Blade. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose ten cents silver for each pattern wanted (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds). State both title and number of pattern. No coupon required.

Full description and directions—as the number of yards and material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

NO. 1236—WILMOTTE PETTICOAT.

Sizes—Medium and large. Petticoats with yokes are no longer designed exclusively for stout women. With the present fashion of fitting the skirts snugly over the hips a yoke petticoat is almost a necessity. Our model is

an excellent design for either a silk or a cambric petticoat, trimmed with silk or lace ruffles for the silk one, or embroidery or lace ruffles for the cambric ones. It is cut with a yoke, and all the fullness of the body of the skirt is drawn to the back of the yoke. This design is also suitable for moreen or mohair petticoats. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1243—NEUVILLE ULSTER.

Sizes for 8, 10 and 12 years. A thoroughly protective and useful design for stormy weather, for school wear, as a substitute for the unhealthy mackintosh, as well as for driving, skating, etc. It is the most practical of school wraps for the school girl, protecting as it does every portion of the body, and the pretty frock into the bargain. It is cut long

enough to reach the hem of the dress, loose in front, and gauged at the waist line in the back. A full military cape reaches below the waist line, and is braided down the front. This design is suitable for any of the favorite cloaking materials. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1247—RED RIDING HOOD CLOAK.

Sizes for 6 months to one year and two years. The baby's first winter coat must be very soft, very light and very warm. The model illustrated is of crimson eiderdown, interlined with light wadding, and then lined again with white silk. The body of the cloak is fitted on what is really a deep yoke or very short waist. The double cape is lined

with silk and trimmed with braid, and the sleeves are long and full at the wrist. Cashmere, silk, velvet and light-weight woolens are the favorite materials for these garments. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1235—PATRICE JACKET.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. An added length is noticed in the new reefer jacket, and the old style of bordering the entire jacket with braid or fur is revived. The reefer is cut double-breasted in front and close-fitting at the sides and back. The high

storm collar and revers are faced with velvet. Dark blue vicuna cloth is the fabric used for this reefer, with black braid for the trimming, and black velvet for the facings. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

DO NOT FAIL to give the NUMBER of pattern, and MEASUREMENTS. It will save trouble and delay.

NO. 1238—LENOX SHIRT WAIST.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches, bust measure.

No. 1241—Lenox Shirt Waist.

Sizes for 14 and 16 years.—Shirt waists in wool goods, silk, or satin, form an important item in every woman's wardrobe. For business women, traveling, and for school girls they are indispensable. Our model is

cut with the fashionable full front, and is fulled at the waist line and droops front and back over a fitted lining. The yoke has the double point in the back, and extends well over the shoulders to the front. A single boxplait down the front is the sole finish. The sleeves are slightly full, finished at the wrist with a two inch band, which serves for a cuff. The standing collar is adjustable. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 914—LOUNGING OR BATH ROBE.

Sizes—medium and large—for ladies.—Whether at home or traveling every woman finds a lounging robe an important garment in securing perfect comfort and ease. The majority of these comfortable gowns are made of eiderdown or French flannel, and they are usually unlined. All delicate colors are used for them, and the edges are simply finished with a hem. A belt or cord girdles the waist.

The full, flowing sleeve can be easily drawn over a neglige or night robe, and if a tight sleeve is desired, the sleeve pattern of any wrapper may be used. A dark gray blanket with a blue striped border, is the material used for the model illustrated, finished at the neck and waist with a cord and tassels of gray and blue.

PLUCKY DENVER GIRL.

Bessie Collins Runs a Grocery and Is Making a Good Living.

There is one girl in Denver who possesses true American grit and ambition. She is Miss Elizabeth Collins, better known as Bessie among the graduates of last year's class of the North Denver High school, from where she graduated with honors.

Miss Collins is a pretty blonde of 19 summers. When the fall term of school commenced she grew restless with nothing to do, her school days being over, and while chatting with a friend one day telling that every avenue of business was so overcrowded that she hardly knew what business to choose. Her companion suggested that she adopt the grocery business. She made up her mind to embark in that business, and straightway informed her father of her intention, asking him to lend her the necessary money with which to erect a store and lay in a supply of groceries. Right near her home, within a hundred feet, opposite the Columbian school, her father built a neat little store of one room, about 20x25 feet. In it he had placed a complete line of groceries, and presented stock and store to her.

A line of candy was an absolute necessity, for across the street was the school. The farmers found a new place to dispose of their produce. From the liberal patronage she is receiving from the North siders, it is appar-

BESSIE COLLINS.

ent that another addition must soon be added to the present structure. While she was receiving a large portion of the trade, she was not satisfied, so one day she started out in a buggy to solicit orders. Now she is busy every morning taking orders, and the afternoon is spent delivering them.

Last Saturday Miss Collins laid in a large stock of canned goods, groceries and tobacco. The business of the day had been good and the receipts heavy. About 9 o'clock she closed, putting all the cash in her pocket, and went home to take her well-earned rest. It was lucky she took her money home, for during the night thieves entered the store. Sunday morning, when she entered the store, she found the large stock that she had left the night before was gone, and everything was in confusion.

While thoroughly disheartened, she set to work putting things in order, and now has a new stock in. A big dog will in the future guard the place.

GRAY-HAIRED INFANT.

When little Meyer Lipman, of 315 Blue Hill avenue, Chicago, was eight months old he could talk as well as most children of four or five years. By the time he was a year old he could spell any word in the first reader and could talk and understand both English and German. The extent of the boy's intellect told against his health, his hair turned gray and his face grew pallid. By the advice of a

MEYER LIPMAN.

physician, who recommended that the boy be kept from everything that required mental effort, his books were taken away from him and he was talked to only on the most commonplace subjects. The family moved to the country and the little man's hair gradually regained its normal color. His parents are both clever and well educated people.

Qualified.

"Why do you think your oldest brother would have made his mark in politics?"

"He doesn't seem to know any more about business than a baby."

PIANOS $121.25 and up | ORGANS $22.00 and up
WARRANTED 20 YEARS. No finer goods made. 30 days trial free, pay after trial. VIOLINS 75c and up. GUITARS and MANDOLINS $2.95 up, everything in proportion. For full particulars and BIG FREE CATALOGUE, cut this ad. out and send to SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. Inc., CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

THE FIRST WAS SUNG BY ANGELS ON JUDEA'S PLAIN.

Songs of Joy Over Christ's Birth Have Been Sung Through the Centuries.

Christmas carols are as old as the Christian era.

The first Christmas carol was sung by the angels to the shepherds of Judea. They sung "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The startled shepherds heard the words and remembered them and sung them again the following year, and the year after, and for long Christmas eves before the Holy Script perpetuated them forever.

The Christmas carol comes from a Latin word—carolere, which means "to sing songs of joy." At one time the word carol degenerated and meant carousal, and in the year 672 the bishops forbade an indulgence in "carols and diabolical things on the feast of St. John the Baptist."

Later the carol again regained its prestige and became a beautiful song of joy, especially appropriate for Christmas.

Easter songs and feast-day hymns are not, properly speaking, carols; for it is only on Christmas that the song of endless joy can appropriately be sung. In the year 980 a writer, Ramefiensis, spoke of "carols and angels' praise," meaning the same kind of glad song now represented by our modern carol. Chaucer also used the word carol—

> Carols and dances
> Peinted on the wall.

And he again says:

> I saw her dance so comely,
> Carol and sing so sweetly.

For the last nine hundred years the word carol has become more and more frequent in literature, and it is now taken for a symbol of that which is bright and beautiful.

"My heart carols forth its song of joy," appears in the love poem of a prominent writer. Another secular writer poetizes—

> In her sweet eyes the glances lie
> Like carols of sweet melody.

The earliest German carol was "Der Tag der ist so freundlich." The earliest Holland carol is "'t is een dach van vrolichkeit." Both of these were written in the thirteenth century.

Some of the most beautiful Christmas carols appear in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and had their home in France, Italy and England. In those days it was the mark of a literateur to have carol collections, for books were not as plentiful as they are now, and one of the most famous collectors was De Caurroy, of France, whose name comes down to us in the writings of the day, more as a collector of carols than as a writer or a character.

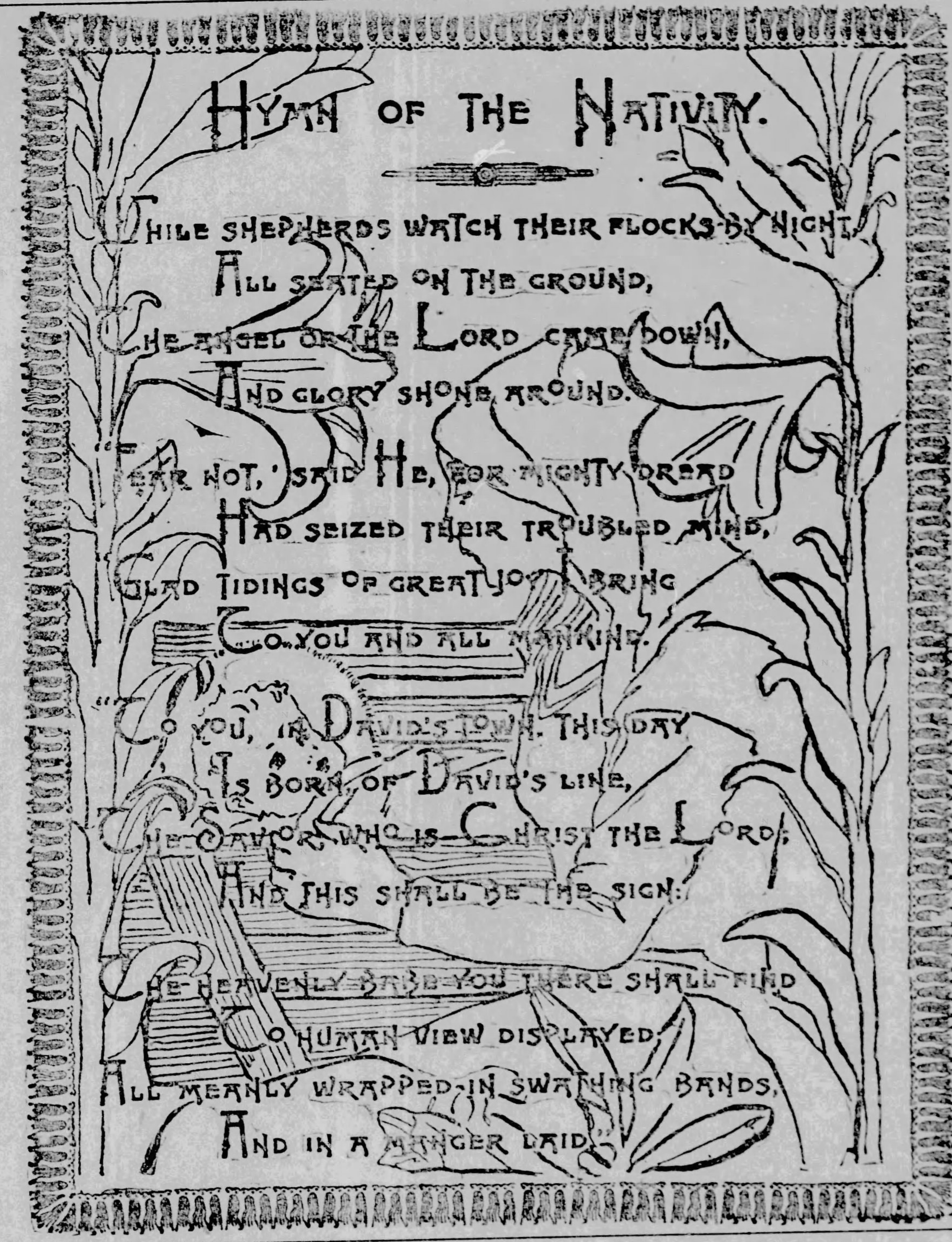
England was always inclined to make a wassail of her carols, and they were specially joyous, and not always sacred. One of the favorite wassails or carols was the "Boar's Head," written about three hundred years ago. A Queen's college student while on his way to mass was overtaken by a boar. To save his life he thrust his volume of Aristotle down the boar's throat, and went on to church. On his return the boar lay dead with the volume still in his throat. The student severed the head from the body and bore it home, and after reaching there composed the "Boar's Carol."

A wassail songs is particularly sung on holidays, and may be considered a song used more for jollification than one suitable for a church or Christmas song, hence in our acceptance of the term it should properly be thrust out.

The English royalty were all very fond of the Christmas carol. Queen Elizabeth had her ladies sing them with dancing, hence it is doubtful that she understood the meaning of the word carol. But the Church of England has always kept up the carol singing in its church choir, and it has in its carol collections some of the most beautiful compositions in the world.

The most beautiful carol ever sung, or the one that is most widely sung, is the "Hymn of Nativity," which is sung every year in Bethlehem in the church which was built over the stable in which Christ was born. The stable stands there yet with its hard floor and stone troughs. Directly over it is built a beautiful church, where every year hundreds of pilgrims and travelers assemble on Christmas eve. Long and elaborate service take place in the church; and at one point in the worship the priests come down the narrow stone steps that lead to the stable beneath. They carry candles in their hands and the choir boys sing. Once down below they come into a flood of light which springs from a bright ray in the ceiling. On the floor, directly where the first brilliancy of the ray strikes it, is a star set in the floor, and this star marks the place where the Virgin Mary lay when "there was no room at the inn."

A waxen image of the Christ child is carried in the procession, and when the child is laid in the stone trough which served as a manger, the hymn of the Nativity is sung. At one point in the song the waxen image of the child is lifted and laid down again to illustrate the words.



The Catholic church has undoubtedly the most impressive Christmas carols in its sacred music. They are countless and year by year it becomes necessary to file at the library of the Vatican volumes of the carols which can no longer be sung on account of the new ones that are written.

The Puritans were opposed to the observance of the "five and twentieth day of December, commonly called Christmas day," and punished the singing of all Christmas carols; but our later day priests and musicians have carried Christmas caroling to the opposite extreme; and all have taken a hand at one time or another in the composition of a Christmas song. In England Sullivan, Dikes, Monk, Barnby, Tours and Smith—have all composed carols for their church choirs. And in this country we sing the carols of Dudley Buck, George William Warren, Harry Howe Shelly, Horatio Parker and all the rest.

It is a singular thing that the new carol has seldom the charm of the old, and when all have been sung, the musician closes his book and plays the "Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas" carol of childhood for the children, and the "Come All Ye Faithful" for the elders. The "Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men" song is one that cannot be too old to be new, nor too new to be glad.

CHRISTMAS SKIES AND THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

BY MARY PROCTOR.

Christmas is not only a time of rejoicing on planet earth, but even the heavens are decked with their finest array of brilliants at his festive season.

To appreciate the real glories of the celestial sphere in the depth of winter, Garret P. Serviss advises us "to spend a few clear nights in the rural districts, when the hills, clad with sparkling blankets of crusted snow, reflect the glitter of the living sky. There one may detect the delicate shade of green that lurks in the imperial blaze of Sirius, the beautiful rose-red light of Aldebaran, the rich orange hue of Betelgeux, the blue-white radiance of Rigel and the pearly lustre of Capella."

This creamy white light makes it one of the most beautiful jewels in the sky, and it is easily found, since a line from Sirius upward through Betelgeux points directly to this bright star. Cygnus, the Swan, and part of the constellation Cepheus are merged in the glittering radiance of the Milky Way.

> A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold,
> And pavement stars—as stars to thee appear.

The Milky Way, or Silver River of Heaven, as it is gracefully termed by the Japanese, winds in and out among the stars of Cassiopeia's "chair," while Perseus and Auriga are agow with its sheen. Flowing by the feet of the Twins (Gemini) and over the golden tipped horns of the Bull (Taurus), it continues on its way eastward above Orion, drifting between the Great Dog (Canis Major) and the Little Dog (Canis Minor), with their bright signal lights, Procyon and the peerless Sirius.

The Great Bear.

The Great Bear (Ursa Major) is beginning to rise above the notheastern horizon, the Pointers indicating the Pole Star,

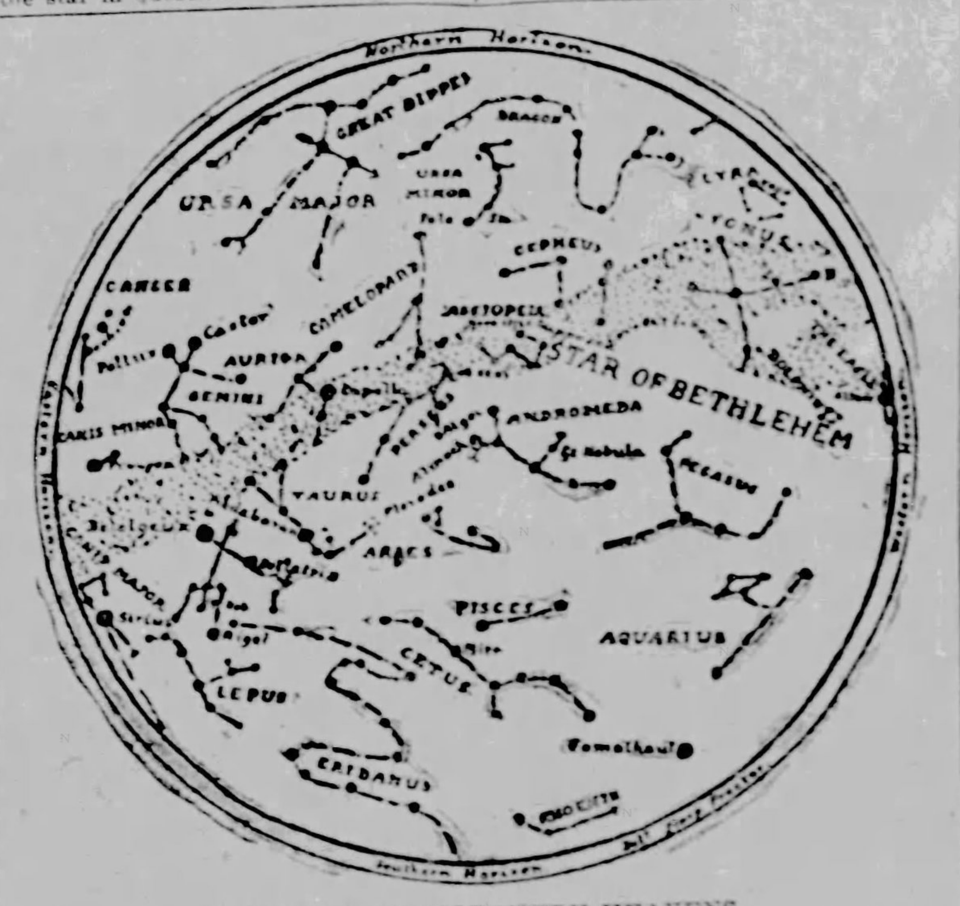
> Of whose true fixed and resting quality
> There is no fellow in the firmament.

Between the Great Bear (Ursa Major) and the Little Bear (Ursa Minor) coils the Dragon (Draco), with its gleaming eyes (Beta and Gamma), "oblique retorted that askant cast gleaming fire." The Royal Family occupy a conspicuous position, the fair Andromeda being nearly overhead, and above are Cassiopeia, her mother, and Cepheus, her father, while near at hand is Perseus, her gallant rescuer. The terrible sea monster (Cetus), that was sent to devour her, is at a safe distance low down in the south. The Crab (Cancer,) the Twins (Gemini), the Bull (Taurus), the Ram (Aries), the Fishes (Pisces), and the Water Bearer (Aquarius) mark part of the royal pathway of the sun, and are the signs of the zodac, or Houses of the Sun, as they are termed by the Chinese.

The Great Dog (Canis Major) and the Little Dog (Canis Minor) are just making their appearance in the east, while the Harp (Lyra), with the leading brilliant Vega, the Swan (Cygnus), the Eagle (Aquila)and the Dolphin (Delphinus) are setting in the west. The glorious Orion, is well in sight, though not as upright as we would expect a knightly hunter to be, and around a faint star in his sword clings the misty haze known as the Great Nebula of Orion:—"With its isles of light, its silvery streams and gloomy gulfs of mystic shade." Orion wards off the attack of the Bull (Taurus) with his shield and treads on the Hare (Lepus). The River (Eridanus) occupies the southeasterly sky.

But it is the Star of Bethlehem that specially claims our attention at this time of the year. The small star marked Nova, 1572, and situated near the middle angle of the straggling W formed by the chief stars of Cassiopeia, is of interest not only on account of its strange history, but from the fact of its being known as "The Star of Bethlehem," though science rejects the theory.

This star first attracted attention in the year 1572, when it was observed by the Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe. Returning one evening from his laboratory to his dwelling house, he found, says Sir John Herschel, "a group of country people gazing up at a star which he was sure did not exist an hour before." This was the star in question. The description of



MAP OF THE NORTHERN HEAVENS.

its various changes is specially interesting at the present time, when more is known of the true nature of such phenomena than was even in the time when the star was blazing in the firmament.

The star remained visible, we learn, about sixteen months, during which time it kept its place in the heavens without the least variation. "It had all the radiance of the fixed stars, and twinkled like them, and was in all respects like Sirius, except that it surpassed Sirius in brightness and magnitude." It appeared larger than Jupiter, which was at that time at its brightest, and was scarcely inferior to Venus. It did not acquire this lustre gradually, but shone forth all at once of its full size and brightness, "as if," said the chroniclers of the time, "it had been of instantaneous creation."

Three Weeks of Splendor.

For three weeks it shone with full splendor, during which time it could be seen at noonday "by those who had good eyes and knew where to look for it." But before it had been seen a month it became visibly smaller, and from the middle of December, 1572, till March, 1574, when it entirely disappeared, it continually diminished in magnitude. "As it decreased in size it varied in color, and at first its light was white and extremely bright. It then became yellowish, afterward of a lurid color, like Mars, and finished with a pale, livid white resembling the color of Saturn."

In the years 945 and 1264 brilliant stars appeared in the same region of the heavens, and we may suspect them to be one and the same star with a period of 314 years. It is to be noted that the period from 945 to 1264 being 319 years and that from 1264 to 1572 being only 308 years, the period of this star (if Goodricke is correct in supposing the three outbursts to have occurred in the same star) would seem to be diminishing. At any time then this star might now blaze out in the region between Cassiopeia and Cepheus, for more than 304 years have already passed since its last outburst. In fact, the "new" star (termed B Cassiopeia) can still be perceived amouldering in the spot where it once blazed. "Not only is it variable to the extent of nearly a magnitude, but it frequently seems nebulous, with occasional lurid flashes of momentarily increased brightness."

Professor Young's Views.

Prof. Young, in writing on this subject, expresses himself as follows: "There has been an entirely unfounded notion that this star may have been identical with the 'Star of Bethlehem,' it being imagined that the star is periodically variable, with a period of 314 years. If so, it might have been expected to reappear in 1886, and it was so expected by certain persons 'as a sign of the second coming of the Lord.' It is difficult to see how the idea came to be generally prevalent, as it certainly has been. Probably every astronomer of note has received hundreds of letters on the subject. At Greenwich a printed circular was prepared and sent out as a reply to such inquiries." (General Astronomy, p. 481).

No "new star," as some have wildly imagined, could have possibly behaved, in the natural order of things, in such a way as to justify the description given in the gospel, according to St. Matthew. It is certain that the "Star of Bethlehem" was not any celestial or atmospheric phenomenon known to science, and it can only be explained as a purely miraculous appearance. Nevertheless, it is pleasant to associate the supposed "Star of Bethlehem" with the bright Christmas stars that gladden many a sad heart at this joyous season, recalling "the good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." And on earth announcing "peace, good will toward men."

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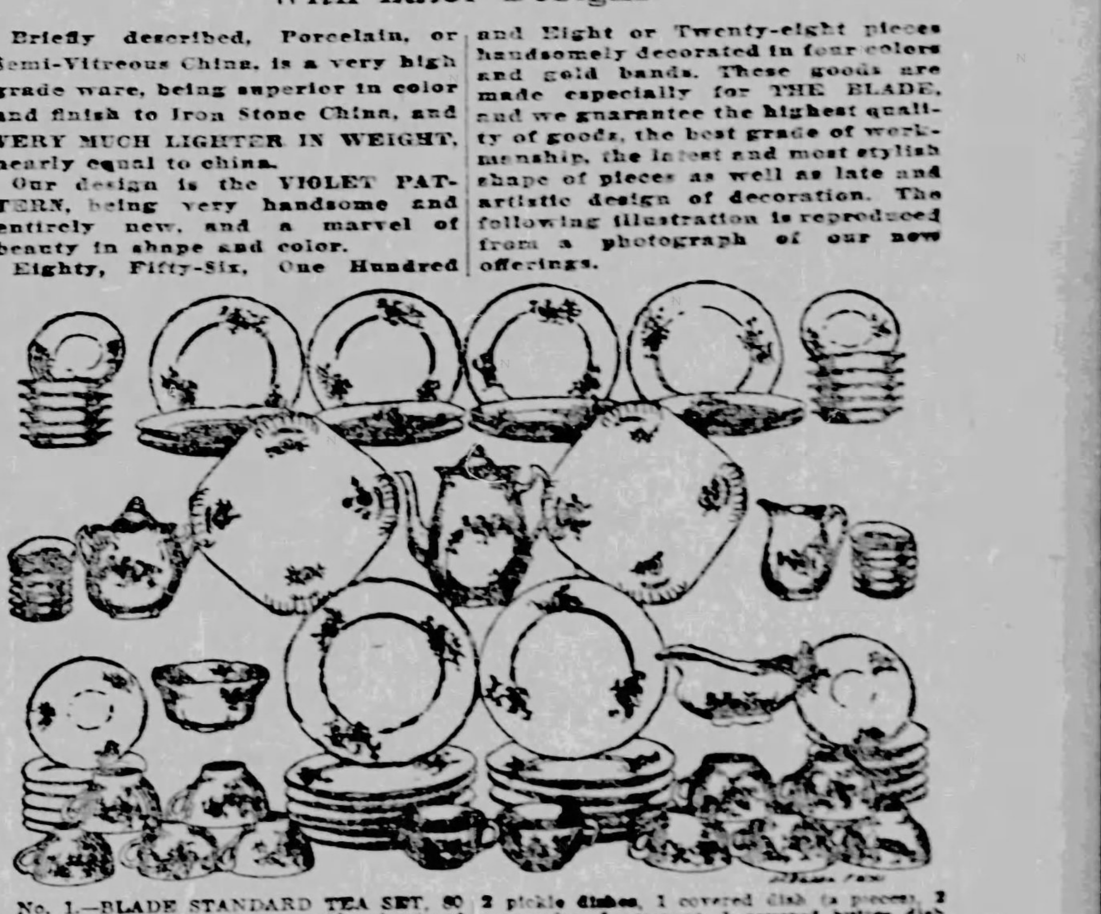

No. 1.—BLADE STANDARD TEA SET, 80 PIECES.—We have sold thousands of sets of these goods, and in every case the recipient received more than expected. This year we expect to send out at the reduced prices over Five Thousand Sets. This set consists of 80 pieces, as follows: 12 breakfast plates, 12 tea plates, 12 tea cups, 12 saucers, 12 fruit dishes, 12 individual butter dishes, 2 round cake plates, 1 tea pot, 1 cover, 1 sugar bowl, 1 cover, 1 cream pitcher, and 1 bowl.

The No. 1 Blade Standard Tea Set, 80 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, $4.75 (former price $7) or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of seven subscribers and $7. The club of seven names to be sent all at one time.

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No. 3.—BLADE DINNER SET, 108 PIECES.—We can describe this set by taking the above illustrated 8-piece Tea Set and adding the following: 12 soup plates, 1 8-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish (2 pieces), 2 casseroles, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish (3 pieces), and 1 jug, making a total of 108 pieces.

The No. 3 Blade Dinner Set, 108 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $7.85; or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of 15 subscribers and $15.00. The club of 15 names to be sent all at one time.

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The No. 4 Blade China Sorts, 28 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $4.25; or we will present one of these assortments to any person sending us a club of eight subscribers and $8. The club of eight names all to be sent at one time.

NOTE.—These sets are decorated with a later pattern than those we formerly sold, and consequently will not match with former purchases. We recommend our readers to buy, first, our No. 1 Blade Standard Set. Afterwards, if pleased with the goods, you may order our No. 4 set, the two combined making you a complete dinner set.

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ORDER BY NUMBER.—The goods are carefully packed in box by manufacturer and shipped direct from the pottery to the purchaser upon our order. We shall order every package shipped by freight unless otherwise instructed. The receiver pays transportation. From 25 cents to $1, according to distance, will cover freight east of the Missouri River, while it may cost somewhere near $2 to pay freight to points beyond the Rockies. We do not advise shipping by express. Never before was so much value offered for so little money. Twenty years ago only the rich could afford such goods as we offer here. We guarantee these goods the best Porcelain China in the world, superior in enamel, color, style and finish to the best imported wares. We make no profit. We want and will have, as a result of this offer, thousands of clubs. These articles will be useful in the house of every reader of The Blade, no matter whether rich or poor. Any person who will try it can raise a club of six to fifteen for The Blade in one day. Get about it before some one else canvasses the field. We are prepared to fill orders promptly.

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SALARY [illegible] by house [illegible] years standing, for man or woman, good church standing, willing to learn our business then to act as Manager and State Correspondent here. Address A. P. ELDER, Sec'y, [illegible] Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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CHINESE DOG FARMS.

Canines Raised by Hundreds to Get Their Skins.

In Manchuria and along the Mongolian borders of China there are thousands of farms on which nothing is raised but dogs, of a breed peculiar to this region. Each proprietor keeps several hundred of them. They are of a large size, and when eight months old are killed, usually in midwinter, for the sake of their skins. As a result of the severe climate, they are covered almost from birth with a magnificent growth of fur. Hence they are much in demand among the Northern Chinese as material for winter clothing.

They constitute the only wealth of this desolate country. In each family a certain number of dogskins are laid aside as the daughter's marriage portion. Yet they command no very high price, eight skins being required for a gown about two yards long, and worth $3 or $4. This would make the average value of each but little over 40 cents, from which must be deducted the cost of sorting and dressing; also of manufacturing the garment. The hides find their first market at several main depots, whence they are taken to Moukden, Fou-Tscheou, and other cities to be made up. Last year the estimated proceeds of this traffic at Newchang, a leading emporium, amounted to 1,000,000 francs, against 1,500,000 francs the year before.—Popular Science News.

They Are Still Here.

"They say that poetry is dying."

"Yes, but, unfortunately, the poets aren't."

THE COZY CORNER

WHAT WAS HIS CREED?

He left a load of anthracite
  In front of a poor widow's door,
When the deep snow, frozen and white,
  Wrapped the street and square, mountain and moor.
    That was his deed;
    He did it well.
    "What was his creed?"
    I cannot tell.

Blest "in his basket and his store,"
  In sitting down and rising up,
When more he got, he gave the more,
  Withholding not the crust and cup.
    He took the lead
    In each good task—
    "What was his creed?"
    I did not ask.

His charity was like the snow,
  Soft, white and silken in its fall;
Not like the noisy winds that blow
  From shivering trees the leaves a pall.
    For flower and weed
    Dropping below.
    "What was his creed?"
    The poor may know.

He has great faith in loaves of bread
  For hungry people, young and old;
And hope inspiring words he said
  To him he sheltered from the cold.
    For man must feed
    As well as pray.
    "What was his creed?"
    I cannot say.

In words he did not put his trust;
  In faith his words were never writ;
He loved to share each cup and crust
  With any one that needed it.
    In time of need
    A friend was he—
    "What was his creed?"
    He told not me.

He put his trust in heaven, and worked
  Ever along with hand and head;
And what he gave in charity
  Sweetened his sleep and daily bread.
    Let us take heed,
    For life is brief!
    Adopt his creed
    And give relief.
—Selected.

There is so much extra work to do at this time of the year, in the preparation for guests, and of Christmas entertainment, that it often happens that we lose much of the pleasure that should be ours, because of the weariness that comes to us in consequence of these additional duties.

And it often happens also, that this extra work falls upon one person of the household, the others being so absorbed in making pretty things for gifts, that they neglect the less inviting work that somebody must do, and that "somebody" is generally the mother. In this way we are apt to become selfish and thoughtless of the comfort of others, at the very season when we should endeavor to be most unselfish, and most self-denying, if Christmas means anything more to us than the exchange of gifts.

Strange as it may seem, this gift-giving business is the cause of more trouble to very many people than it is comfort. Said a friend to me this week: "I wish that no one would give me a present this year. Not but that I like to be remembered by my friends, and enjoy their gifts, but it has come to be such a matter of give and take, and if any one gives to you, no matter how useless or undesirable the gift may be to you, you are expected to give in return. I am in a worry about this for weeks before Christmas and give so many 'duty' presents each year that I am disgusted with myself for being such a fraud, every time.

"I do not know as every one has the same experience, but I am expected to give something valuable, and I am generally notified in some way, of what each person who puts herself on my list, desires.

"We can smile when the little son tells us that he wants a drum, or a sled, or the little girl expresses her preference for a 'dolly that can go to sleep,' but when their grown-up sister says there is nothing she cares so much for as a fan, 'a really nice one, for parties, you know,' or a box of gloves, a ring, or something else that will be worth having in her estimation, the smile we smile then isn't as happy as in the former instance."

"Another thing that troubles me at this time," she continued, "is that no one is satisfied to receive a useful present, or an inexpensive one. My twelve-year-old daughter said when she found a nice dress pattern among her gifts last year: 'Clothes are no present, they wear out and you haven't anything to show for your Christmas gift, and besides I've got to have dresses anyway, and I want something that isn't useful for presents.'

"The maid in the kitchen is the most difficult to please, and it is quite discouraging to know how your present to her will be commented upon in neighboring kitchens. I have positive knowledge of one lady who was 'boycotted' by the 'help,' because she did not give their cook a present that came up to the requirements of the kitchen cabal."

"If I could give what I am able to, to those whom I desire to, it would be a very happy time for me. We often hear people say, that it isn't the value of the gift they care for, it is the knowledge that they have been remembered by their friends, but my experince has been that these same people care just as much for the value of a gift, as any one else does and are not satisfied with simply being kindly remembered.

"I suppose there is no help for it, I must go on giving because I am expected to, and buying things I can hardly afford, because some one has sent me things I do not care for, until I gain strength of mind sufficient to enable me to ignore what people will say."

I do not think that my friend is alone in her trials. There are many women who can heartily agree with all she says, and this state of affairs will continue until we all are far enough advanced upon lines of higher thought and truer living to be able to do away with the outward observances, and more fully appreciate the inward grace of our friends, or, as my friend expresses it, till we man cease to sacrific our time and comfort to that bug-bear of "what people will say about us."

Here is a letter signed "Discouraged," written by one who thinks she is truly miserable, because she cannot do as other girls do, forgetting that to each one some gift is given, if only they will strive to find it and cultivate it. I would suggest to this Discouraged girl, that this Christmas would be a most excellent time for her to give over her regrets and beign in earnest to make the most of the gift she has, and to write to us occasionally of her progress.

Dear Cozy Corner friends, I am feeling unusually blue and discouraged to-day and come to you for comfort and possible help. Why? Because I am homely, and awkward and cannot enjoy my life as other girls can. I can neither dance, sing or play cards, and cannot talk entertainingly, so I am not invited into society as I am neither ornamental nor useful. My sisters and their friends are busy now making such lovely presents for Christmas, and I, who love beauty in any form ,and would be prefectly happy to work with the bright silks and dainty laces, can do nothing but spoil everything I undertake, so while the girls are having such beautiful times upstairs, I have to be in the kitchen cooking things for them to eat.

I suppose you will laugh at me and call me foolish to feel bad about such things when so many have other and more serious troubles, but I assure you it is a serious thing to feel that you have no interests in common with girls if your own age, and must stay at home and lose all the good times because you are homely and awkward."

For the comfort of this disappointed girl I give the following story of "compensation," which I found in an exchange, hoping that our friend's gift of cooking may be so improved that she, too, may be appreciated. And let me tell you, my dear girl, if you are a good cook you will be appreciated by others than "Peter:"

"Aunt Hannah was tall and gaunt and thin,
And her gowns were scanter and thinner,
But you ever once thought of her dress or form
When once you had tasted her dinner.
Her biscuits were gems,
Her honey was gold,
Her gravy! no dream could outvie it;
And a chicken just sighed
To be seasoned and fried
The way its Aunt Hannah could fry it.
One morning the Johnny Cake failed to appear,
And nothing much better came after;
Aunt Hannah had turned up her toes in the night
And had gone to the land of no laughter.
They wanted good fare
For the angels up there,
And nobody ought to deny 'em,
So when Peter prayed
For chickens 'sauteed,'
They sent for Aunt Hannah to fry 'em."

Mrs. Mary Wolderman comes ready to help wherever she can. If the friends who read the Cozy Corner each week, could only realize how much they could help by writing of their experiences and trials and how they have overcome them, the editor is certain that more of them would come to our weekly meetings, and not wait for some one else to do the talking. Every one has something to say and can say it as well as another can, if they would but try, and it is certainly a great help to us all to hear the different opinions on the subjects of interest to us all. Here is Mrs. Wolderman's letter:

If I can be of any help to you I will try and be on hand. I have been married 17 years and have no family, and sometimes I think I have as hard a time to get through the world as if I had a dozen children.

I saw in the Cozy Corner some time ago a request for the recipe for making buttermilk yeast. I read it in another paper; here it is: The day you churn take (for a small family) one pint of fresh buttermilk and put in a pan to boil. When it boils stir into it enough white corn meal to make it like thick gruel. Let it boil well. Then remove from the fire until milkwarm. Into this stir one cup of good yeast, if dry yeast, soak until soft. Let it rise, then mix stiff with cornmeal, and roll into cakes, or into crumbs, it will dry quicker.

I have used it and it does nicely. If you wish to make more at a time you can double, or treble, the proportions. I also send you a cookie and ginger snap recipe which I prize highly: Cookie recipe—One cupful of cream; 1 cupful of sugar; 1 egg; 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder. Mix soft with flour and roll thin and bake quickly.

Ginger snap recipe—One cupful butter, 1 pint of sorghum molasses; 3 eggs; 2 cupfuls brown sugar; 2 teaspoonfuls of soda. Beat the eggs and sugar together, warm the butter and molasses and when hot stir the soda into it, and mix thoroughly into the sugar and eggs. Put 2 tablespoonfuls of ginger into it and set aside till cold; then mix very stiff with flour and roll very thin. I sometimes put a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper into it also. They keep well. If you do not wish so much make half. I would like to ask if any of the readers of the Cozy Corner know anything about almond paste. It is used in cooking?

Frances Howard, who as she says, is "fond of newspapers for more than one reason" gives a few of her reasons:

I wish every housekeeper knew of the many uses to which newspapers could be put, after they have served their original purpose of filling our minds with useful knowledge. Yes, I know what some of you will say—that there is a doubt about the "usefulness" of some of the knowledge we gain from them, and I quite agree with you that there are papers fit for nothing but to put on the cellar shelves, but there "are others" as well.

I heard a clergyman ask a young bride how she liked the church paper he had sent her for a wedding present: "O, it is just lovely," said she, "it is just the right size, when folded once lengthwise, to fit my pantry shelves, and no other paper we take will do that." The clergyman looked as if that was an entirely new recommendation for his pet paper, but only said he was glad she liked it.

Not only for shelve covering is the newspaper valuable, but placed on the newly scrubbed kitchen table it will prevent bread crumbs from soiling it; on the floor around the stoves it will catch the spatters of grease from cooking. It is the best thing (even better than chamois) for polishing windows and glass of any kind, and if you rub the tea-kettle with paper whenever you wash your dishes you will not need to scour it half as often. Your stove will not need blackening so frequently if you give it a good hard rubbing with paper after each time using.

Are there any cracks around the doors or windows that let in too much fresh air this cold weather? Try stuffing them with paper, pressing it in with a knife-blade till it cannot come out. A strip of folded paper of several thicknesses laid across the top of the lower sash of your windows will be as effectual in keeping out the wind, as will a bag of sand. A layer of paper pinned to the lining of your dress-waist will make it twice as warm, and if you are short of batting when you tie a comforter, put in a layer of newspaper. It will "rattle" a little, but in a cold night you won't mind that if you are warm and the paper will keep you warm.

Yes, a newspaper is a good thing to have in the family for more reasons than one, and there should be a place provided in every kitchen where they may be kept till needed.

Ann Amelia:—You can find a copy of Will Carleton's poem at any book-store, or the bookseller will order it for you. It seems strange that there should not be a copy in your public library. I fear it will be some time before the poems you mention can be published in The Blade, but I will do as you request and send them to the proper department.

Mrs. Mary W.:—Thanks for your kind words. There is no book containing all of the answers given in The Blade; a good encyclopedia is probably what you wish. Life's Gateways is a collection of helpful essays on different subjects of interest to all. Some of the chapter headings are as follows: "The Rule of Life," "Self-Dependence," "A Purpose in Drudgery," "Do Honest Work," "The Day of Small Things," "Be Not Selfish in Love," "A Word to Girls," etc.

As you will see the book is now offered with the Weekly Blade for one year for the very small sum of $1.25.

"We say we believe a thing, and then go straightway about our business in the home, and in our places of labor, as fearful and doubtful as if there were no divine promises, and the things we have affirmed are untrue."—Life's Gateways.

THE BLADE COOK.

"What can be substituted for the everlasting turkey for our Christmas dinner? We have it for Thanksgiving, of course, and the taste is hardly out of our mouth before it is time to have it again for our Christmas dinner. Cannot you suggest something that will be as good, and yet be a change from turkey or chicken?"

So writes "A Friend" to the Cook. So much more poultry is used during the winter months than at any other season, that we are apt to tire of it, but because of the unwritten law that we must have it for our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, many will sacrifice their preference for a nice, juicy roast of beef, or a roast of pork, with boiled onions, which, in spite of all that may be said of its unwholesomeness, is a dish that will suit the appetite of many people better than anything else. This, with the accompanying vegetables and the generous piece of mince pie to finish the dinner, will be apt to put one in such a condition that "thanks after meat" will be quite impossible, but even the poor dyspeptic who lives on Graham bread and hot water through the rest of the year, will risk everything for a good, square meal at this time, and the great majority of people will take the chance of after suffering for the sake of gratifying their appetite once a year.

For this "Friend" and others who may desire a change in the principal meat dish of their Christmas dinner, we give the following recipe for

Venison Pie.

Cut 3 lbs. of venison into pieces 1 inch square, season highly with salt, pepper, sweet herbs, a little ground mace and allspice. Place in a deep pudding dish and add 1 cupful of stock, made by cooking the trimmings of meat in a little water. Make a rich biscuit crust and place over the top, leaving an opening for the escape of the steam; put a roll of the crust around the edges of the dish to prevent any of the gravy from escaping. Bake for 2 hours in a moderate over, keeping the pie covered for the first hour. When done, remove from the oven and, through the opening in the top, pour the remainder of the stock. If the pie is to be eaten cold, a little gelatine should be dissolved in this stock to form a jelly when cold. If the meat does not seem tender, it should be cooked an hour before the crust is put on. Current jelly should be served with venison.

Suppose you have a pair of ducks for dinner, how would you like them cooked in this way?

Roast Duck, With Nut Dressing.

Singe, draw and clean a pair of ducks. Chop sufficient English walnuts to make a cupful; boil 5 medium sized potatoes, mash and season them, add the nuts; ½ teaspoonful of salt, ½ teaspoonful of onion juice, a clove of garlic minced, and ¼ teaspoonful of pepper. Mix and stuff the ducks, truss and roast for 1½ hours in a quick oven, basting every 20 minutes. If you do not like so much onion, reduce the quantity to suit.

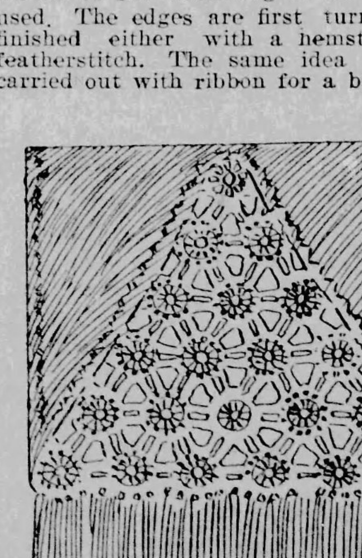
A SPLENDID OFFER.

As the holidays are rapidly approaching, Miss Bouton, after consulting with the publishers of the paper, has arranged to make the following offer for a limited time to those of her Household friends whose subscription to The Blade expires in the near future: If $1.25 is enclosed in a letter addressed to her personally, she will forward postpaid a cloth bound copy of her last book, Life's Gateways, and see that the name is entered as a subscriber to the Weekly Blade for another year. Those familiar with Miss Bouton's writing know that the book cannot fail to be helpful and encouraging, and will make a fine holiday gift. A portrait of the author forms the frontispiece.

THE BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB.

For trimming underwear, bureau cloths and many other articles, there is nothing prettier or more durable than one made of crochet and braid. The braid used is the novelty braid, which can be obtained in many different patterns, and one who is accustomed to using a crochet needle can vary the methods of working in a hundred ways. The pattern is drawn on stiff paper and the braid basted in place and fastened where it is crossed, by a few stitches with a needle and thread. The wheels are then crocheted and joined to the braid and the whole is finished with a plain edging. The wheels and edge can be made of tatting instead of crochet, and an insertion to match this edge can be made.

An illustration of the end of a scarf is given next. It can be made of muslin, scrim, or silk and the wheels are of thread or silk according to the material used. The edges are first turned and finished either with a hemstitch, or featherstitch. The same idea may be carried out with ribbon for a bookmark,



and I recently saw a ladies' tie, made of fine mull, finished with a row of tatted wheels done of very fine threads, and the effect was quite pretty.

We give next an arrangement for a Cozy Corner which can be reproduced in almost any room, and which will utilize the otherwise useless space between a chimney and the side of the room. Such a corner would add very much to the beauty and comfort of a guest chamber, though the idea can be appropriately carried out in any room. The plan can be varied to suit any taste; rows of shelves taking the place of the cabinets repre-

sented, or a writing desk with shelves over it, could be substituted, as the light from the window would make such an arrangement possible. The couch can be built into the wall, or be a moveable one and should be upholstered to correspond with the other furnishings of the room.

Mrs. Jane M. Condit sends the above suggestions, hoping that they may be of use to The Blade readers who are preparing for Christmas guests.

The basket was made of willow work,
  Made rough but very strong,
With a top to hide what was put inside
  And a handle to take it along.
A man came by the market place,
  He was a good man and true,
He bought the basket, and, filling it up,
  Said, "I've put all I could in you."

It was only a basket of medium size
  But it carried that man so high,
After 'twas left at a widow's door,
  That it bore him above the sky,
Up and up to heaven's bright gate
  Which the angel opened wide;
And the basket that he filled for the hungry poor
  Landed him safely inside.
—Irene Ackerman.

A Story of Valley Forge.

Mademoiselle de Berny

By Pauline Bradford Mackie

A story of the Revolution!

A story of those days of the long ago which are real to the present generation only through the medium of romance or history; a story of the months immediately following that winter when, in Valley Forge, the handful of men called the American army met cold and hunger and despair, while, but a short distance away, in the Quaker City, the British laughed and danced and enjoyed the comfort of the passing hours; a story of those times is Mademoiselle de Berny, by Pauline Bradford Mackie, which has just come from the press of Lamson, Wolffe & Co., New York. I have read the pretty volume with deep interest for two reasons—one because of its own intrinsic merit, the other that it is the work of a Toledo girl, and her first venture into the field of novel writing. That she has been successful, those who have the pleasure of reading the story will gladly allow.

Madamoiselle Berny is a stirring romance full of life and action from start to finish. The reader meets five of the principal characters one May afternoon in the year 1778, in the Green Tree coffee house in what was termed New Philadelphia. Four of the five were of one party consisting of the beautiful young French girl, Diane de Berny, her blind brother Armand, a British officer, General Stirling, an uncle of Diane's by marriage, and a young Philadelphian, Heyward by name, who is the hero in the pretty love passages that run through the tale. The fifth personage is a man in Quaker costume who plays a most unsavory part in the scenes which follow. Besides these, there was a dog, a Great Dane, Armand's friend and companion, whose intelligence and sagacity often helped his master, whose misfortune made him so dependent upon others.

The following passages will give the mouth compressed, the underlip and chin slightly protruding. His glance dwelt momentarily on the young girl, but she felt he had not even observed her as she met the gaze of those shadowed eyes, which seemed to look inward rather than afar. * * * * Vainly her glance swept the masses for her brother, fearful lest she should see Richard Heyward. But she saw no familiar face among these gaunt-bearded men, sunken cheeked and hollow eyed. On some of the ragged coats were pinned heart-shaped pieces of red flannel. These bits of cloth were worn on the left breast. This novel detail of the scene excited Mademoiselle de Berny's curiosity, so that she whispered to her companion. He answered in a low voice—for the service still continued—that it was a decoration conferred by General Washington on those soldiers who distinguished themselves for bravery, privileging the wearer to pass the camp guards as if he was a commissioned officer.

The picture of the simple life of Washington and his wife in the little log cabin which formed headquarters is a very vivid one. There was light and warmth in the dining room, "although in one corner of the ceiling the rain forced an ingress and dripped continuously. It was an oblong room with lowering rafters, the cracks in the log walls plastered with clay. Candles shone at intervals down the table, which was of such length as to necessitate being placed diagonally across the floor. A fire burned merrily on the hearth, casting grotesque shadows and reflecting redly upon those seated near by."

Diane feels rather than knows that there is something wrong with her brother, that he is concealing something from her. Blind though he is and dependent upon her love, he proudly resents any treatment that would make him seem a boy. His father died a soldier, and he will show Diane that he, too, has a soldier's heart.

One night she awakens suddenly and uneasily. Going to the casement she swung it back and looked towards the forest. While she watches, "that for which she waited came to pass." From the black shadow of the distant woods she sees a figure which moves swiftly across the moonlit field, beyond the rows of huts, but inside the line of sentinels." And then it was gone, leaving the shadow of a great dread upon her lest it was her brother.

DIANE PLEADING WITH WASHINGTON.

some idea of the poetic fancy that is flung like a veil over the whole book, no matter how stern the action:

"Your posies are drooping soon, Diane," he said, his eyes resting kindly upon her.

"They are wild flowers," she answered. She looked up through the open casement where a loosened tendril of a vine swayed against the blue sky. A bird flashed by in the sunlight, and with a little circling motion sank upon its nest built in a network of the Virginia creeper which clambered heavily over the opposite wall of the court. Her eyes grew dreamy, her face softening and losing its alert brightness of expression.

"There is an orchard in France," she said softly, "so old that the trees are gnarled and bent and bear litte fruit; yet, where the ground slopes downward, runs a stream, so that the grass all around is long and wet, and the fleur-de-lis is now in bloom. Sometimes there were yellow blossoms among the purple, and some were white, were they not, Armand," she asked, addressing a lad who had perched himself on the further end of the table, one leg doubled under him, his free foot resting lightly on the head of a Danish hound crouched upon the floor. He had been playing on a flute, but so plaintively sweet and delicate was his music that although often continuous, it did not disturb conversation, having in its quality something of the nature of a flower's perfume of which one may often be but half-conscious.

He turned at his sister's question.

"I know, Diane," he nodded. "I could find them sooner than you. The scent of the white flowers is stronger."

It is easy to see from the first that Diane's heart is inclined towards Heyward, whom yet she suspects of being other than he appears, in reality a rebel among his enemies for a purpose that would hang him as a spy the instant discovery came. Hot anger swells her heart at this, as she deems it, unworthy position for an honorable man.

The struggle within herself is carried on through all the weeks that follow, and in the changing scenes in which she finds herself is well depicted. She loves and she hates alternately with the characteristic fervor of the French character; she is daring and timid by turns, but sweet and womanly always.

Her tenderness for her brother Armand never fails. However impatient she may be with others, her patience and sweetness with him are pathetic. One of the charms of the story, indeed, lies in this portraiture of Diane, the bright, piquant and not impossibly good girl, who is yet capable of such devotion and self-sacrifice.

Armand disappears, taking the Great Dane with him, and Diane becomes alarmed lest he has gone to Valley Forge to find Heyward, unaware of the perils he would meet. The description of her early morning walk out of the city in quest of the blind boy is a realistic bit of writing. With a young Quakeress, Rachel Mott, whom she has persuaded to go with her, they start towards the American lines.

Miss Mackie has a gift for description. They are never long, never wearisome, but with a few pen strokes she makes visible what she desires her readers to see. Take, for instance, her first portrayal of Washington, when she meets him after her arrival at Valley Forge. It is just at the evening hour, and the muffled yet shrill tones of the tattoo, sounding for evening prayers, met her ear as she paused with her companion and countryman, the young Marquis La Fayette, upon the edge of the camp.

Never in her life had the young girl imagined there existed such pale, desolate, and ragged men as the soldiers issued from the huts, obeying the summons of the tattoo. The chaplain mounted the stump, a meagre, bowed figure in black, with thin white hair. Near him was stationed a body of officers. The entire army had an air of silent expectation. Suddenly her roving glance was attracted toward a man wrapped in a blue military cape advancing through the soldiers, who parted with profound reverence. The newcomer towered head and shoulders above the majority. As he drew nearer, walking swiftly, bearing himself with a dignity which possessed something of an austere grandeur, she saw his countenance plainly. He removed his hat as the chaplain gave the opening prayer, revealing a dome-like head, the light brown hair, heavily sprinkled with gray, tied with a black ribbon. The face was massively cut and of unusual pallor, the nose prominent,

There are two or three dramatic scenes which holds the reader breathless. One is where Diane goes to Washington to plead for her brother's life. And then he asks her a question which indicates a doubt of her own loyalty.

But the girl in front of him could not speak. As the Quaker's attack upon her brother had well-nigh crushed the boy, so now the sister's bright nature was broken. She had been surrounded and under guard as a common spy! She strove to speak, but no sound issued from her parched lips. Again and again her lips moved in a vain effort, until at last her half-paralyzed will asserted itself, and she voiced in a whisper her denial. But as that half-truth faintly whispered left her pale lips, something else passed from Mademoiselle de Berny's life. Never again would she have the same lightness, the same free heartedness and buoyant slf-confidence. With that supreme effort at denial, something which was vital in her nature was killed. Tenderer for this experience she would always be, but her pride was gone. Perhaps something of this made itself felt to Washington, and that in her gaze he read something of that look which it is said the dying deer turns upon the hunter who has slain it. He bent to catch her whispered words which he could scarcely distinguish. Only now, as in his first interview with Mademoiselle de Berny, he saw again a fleeting resemblance in her face to that of a long-past love of his, 'the Lowland Beauty,' the unrequited love of his youth. The quivering of this French girl's sweet mouth, with its full and girlish curves, brought to him again the memory of one unkissed mouth; the slender hands pressed together were like that pair of hands which had slipped from his eager grasp; hair as soft and shining had shadowed other eyes, eyes which had turned from him. Oh, the distant and enchanting glory of youth! He covered his eyes with his hand. He was not a military genius, but he was a great soldier; but before that he was a peace-loving man, and his thought turned wearily from the smoke and din of battle to the quiet and beauty of the country.

Events move swiftly onward to their culmination, and the reader is carried irresistibly forward, rejoicing at last in the joy which was the outcome of sorrow.

I have refrained from even outlining the story as a whole, for I do not want to diminish the interest. It is well told, with a delicate but strong movement, and is pure and sweet and wholesome throughout. While in itself it may not be a work of genius, it is yet full of brilliant promise for the young writer, of whose successful future there can be little doubt.

It is interesting to know that the Quaker dialect used in the story was edited by Dr. B. F. Trueblood, the secretary of the American Peace society, and is therefore historically correct, as is the pen-portrait of General Washington, many of whose utterances are literal expressions taken from records of the past, which Miss Mackie spent some time in Washington studying when preparing for her work.

The volume is very prettily gotten up by the publishers, and is charmingly illustrated by Frank T. Merrill.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

AN INDIAN CRADLE SONG.

Swing thee low in thy cradle soft,
  Deep in the dusky wood;
Swing thee low and swing aloft—
  Sleep as a pappoose should;
For, safe in your little birchen nest,
Quiet will come, and peace and rest,
  If the little pappoose is good.

The coyote howls on the prairie cold,
  And the owlet hoots in the tree,
And the big moon shines on the little child
  As it slumbers peacefully;
So swing thee high in thy little nest,
And swing thee low, and take the rest
  That the night wind brings to thee.

Father lies on the fragrant ground,
  Dreaming of hunt and fight,
And the pine leaves rustle with mournful sound
  All through the solemn night
But the little pappoose in his birchen nest
Is swinging low as he takes his rest,
  Till the sun brings the morning light.
—The Southern Workman.

A WAR-TIME FEAST.

Three Pitiful Little Sausages On a Richmond Dinner Table.

"It was a brisk winter's day, and our walk out Franklin street added to the insistence of youthful appetites. Jimmie declared if old Esther didn't hurry up the dinner when we got back, he should have to read the cookery-book to stay his hunger. But, secretly, we were dwelling in imagination upon the rich treat that was soon to come; and, on reaching home, both of us abandoned ceremony to rush pell-mell down the basement stairs. Jimmie opened the door with a sort of mild Indian war-whoop of delight. I responded in the same fashion, and then—there, on the window-sill, was indeed our plate of nut-candy as we had left it; but sitting in the middle of it, her little red tongue

"THAT MEAN LITTLE ASCHENPUTTEL!"

industriously traveling over every portion within her reach, was also Aschenputtel! Two cats, friends of hers, on their hind legs upon a barrel in the yard, their heads upon a level with the plate, were engaged in licking what the selfish hostess had left accessible to their attack!"

"That mean little Aschenputtel!" cried Claude, indignantly.

"Poor little Uncle Jimmie, and poor little disappointed mamma," commented Hal, giving his mother's waist a loving squeeze.

"Mamma, what did you do?" asked Kathleen.

"I am afraid I cried—just a little bit. Jimmie, very red in the face, drove away the cats, and, taking up the plate, was just preparing to throw the whole thing into the yard, when a couple of small darkey children came running down the street, looking so longingly at the dish that he changed his mind. 'Look here, you youngsters,' he said, 'the cats have been licking this; but if you choose to take it and pump on it, you're welcome to the lot.' With grins and bobs, the little negroes took plate and all, and scampered away. A moment later my dear father came in from his office. As he shook hands with Jimmie and kissed me, we saw by his shining eyes that he had good news in store. First we thought it was a victory of our army; but it turned out to be a little pot of strawberry jam, which a clerk for whom he had done a kindness had sent as a present to 'his little girl.'"

"I am so glad," said Claude, with emphasis.

"So were we," answered his mother. "I laid the cloth, and when presently old Esther brought in the dinner, what should she do but set before her 'Marse Jimmie' a dish containing three hot sausages! Where they came from we could not induce her to reveal. It has always been my idea that out of the old creature's little store of coins laid by for a 'rainy day,' she purchased the dainties to regale her pet. And so, that day, at least, we feasted like kings; every morsel put upon the table was eaten with hearty relish, and to this hour I love the memory of our poor little pinched 'refugee' banquet, where so much affection and gratitude and self-sacrifice went to furnish the meagre board. One thing especially I remember of it. My father, pausing with a morsel of sausage upon his fork, sighed deeply and seemed to be looking at something we could not see. Jimmie and I knew he was thinking about his other children; the two boys, who, upon hardtack and raw bacon, were then wearing out the end of a bitter and hard-fought struggle—the sons whom never again he was to welcome under his roof."—St. Nicholas.

AS HIS MOTHER USED TO DO.

He criticized her puddings and he found fault with her cake;
He wished she'd make such biscuit as his mother used to make;
She didn't wash the dishes and she didn't make a stew,
Nor even mend his stockings, as his mother used to do.

His mother had six children, but by night her work was done;
His wife seemed drudging always, yet she only had the one.
His mother always was well dressed, his wife would be so, too,
If only she would manage as his mother used to do.

Ah, well! She was not perfect, though she tried to do her best,
Until at length she thought her time had come to have a rest;
So when one day he went the same old rigmarole all through,
She turned and boxed his ears, just as his mother used to do.
—Chicago Times.

There is nothing more pitiful and pathetic in the whole range of life than the insufficient strength with which some of its heaviest burdens are carried. One gets peeps occasionally of the heroism that lifts up sordid lives. There are lives of women, for instance, that are never mentioned in the society journals. No lady-reporter ever thought it worth her while to record what they wore on this or that occasion. Half a dozen children; a small home in a poor street; worn-out scraps of carpet and everlasting dust; small means, perpetual washing-day, and sickening smells, an indifferent husband, and now and again sickness. With it all the continuous effort to make both ends meet; to smile with an aching back and a weary heart, to keep up the home because that is a sacred trust and must be died for, if necessary. Oh, my sisters! do you know anything about doing things with not quite strength enough, to do them?—Toronto Mail and Express.

Willie and Johnny set up a lemonade stand the other day, and a gentleman was their first patron. Willie's sign read: "Four cents a glass." Johnny's modest announcement was: "Two cents a glass."

Being a man with an eye to the fact that "a penny saved is a penny earned," the customer bought a glass of Johnny's lemonad, paid the two cents due, and casually inquired: "Why is yours cheaper than your brother's?"

"'Cos mine is the lemonade that the puppy fell into."

The Rev. Dr. Charles G. Ames recently said in a sermon:

"There is to be no great change for the better in modern society until the people who pray for it shall raise their own standard—the standard of him who said: 'Except a man deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me, he cannot be my disciple.' I am sure that our moral power to reach and help the exposed and submerged hundredth depends almost wholly upon our showing them some sign of practical sympathy. If a man would not lift his finger, or go a step out of his way, to help you in time of trouble or need, could you look to him as a friend? If whole churches full of people stand aloof from their unfortunate neighbors, and rather take pains to avoid them, will it be strange if all our talk of the fatherhood and the brotherhood sounds like mockery? Am I a follower of Jesus when I think it beneath my dignity to serve the least of his brethren as mine?"

OUR YOUNG FOLKS

WHAT AM I?

I am neither a Lawyer, nor a Teacher,
But by profession am a Preacher.
I labor hard both day and night,
Though many do my counsel slight.

I spread my hands and hold my breath,
And always cry, "prepare for death."
I speak to many a thoughtless crowd,
And weeping, hourly cry aloud.

I am a preacher in word and deed,
Though I neither meditate nor read,
Nor spend my time in fervent prayer
My theme is all "for death prepare."

Cast in various places is my lot,
In rich man's palace and poor man's cot.

I am a friend to fallen man
And do them all the good I can.

It matters not a straw to me
Whether my company is bond, or free;
Whether my audience be small, or large,
I am just as faithful to my charge.

I care for naught but to perform
The task for which I have been born.
Though no one thinks it a disgrace
To stare me rudely in the face.

Perhaps you all have done the same,
Then tell me, pray, what is my name?
MRS. P. LEWIS.
No. 525 Erie street, Toledo.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUNDS.

In the early part of October last, Miss Prudence was away from home for a few days, and during her absence a member of her family who has a chronic desire to "straighten up things," took the opportunity to straighten up Miss Prudence's desk, and among other improvements (?) the M. G. R. letters that came that week were placed in a pigeon-hole of the desk where they did not belong.

The consequence of this arrangement—one of the consequences—is that only to-day has the Chaperone found that package of unopened letters. Some of them have been expected for weeks and Miss Prudence has been wondering why they did not make their appearance, and that she has found them, she apologizes to the writers for the delay.

Another consequence of this house-cleaning episode is that, now and hereafter all persons have been warned, under the penalty of something dreadful happening to them, to never again meddle with the disorderly-order that prevails upon the desk where the M. G. R. letters are edited.

Among the letters that had been expected, was one from Zack Stubbs. It is mostly explanatory of his long absence, and his excuses are all valid, and Miss Prudence accepts them all, hoping he will soon be able to write a letter for the M. G. R.

He has an idea—and a very good one—for Christmas, which, I hope it is not too late now to be used by the M. G. R.'s who may like it. It is this:

Let each M. G. R. who would like to "remember" other members of the circle at Christmas-tide, write you at once enclosing address and stamped envelope, asking for the names and addresses of those they wish (would that make too much work for you?) Then let them take plain, white cards and write their own name and address (each one do their own writing, so it will be an autograph, you know; also, their "nom" in the lower left-hand corner, with a Christmas wish and a few days before Christmas mail them to their friends.

Don't you think it would be nice to receive the address of our M. G. R. friends in their own handwriting, and know they remember you? I do. We can call it the "Christmas Autograph Card."

Miss Prudence seldom finds anything that she can do for the M. G. R.'s too much work, and will be glad to help any one who wishes to adopt this plan. She only regrets that it has been presented to you so late in the month, and suggests that if too late for Christmas, it will be equally good for New Year's remembrance.

An Odd Number, who is our first representative from New Hampshire, I think, was one of those who were "side-tracked," and we certainly have been the losers thereby, and while we always are glad to have a large number present, we shall always be glad to welcome "An Odd Number."

Dear M. G. R.'s: I have read your column ever since the first whistle sounded, and to-day it was so full of interest that I don't want to stay outside any longer.

If you are doubtful of improvement, hunt up a paper two years' old, and compare notes!

I think the suggestions found in the letters by Egyptian Friend and Violet Grey are splendid. Violet, my home has been without a mother since I was ten, and there were five of us. I was so glad to see the word "return" in your letter.

I have had two years' experience in housekeeping, but at present am a post-office clerk. I can assure you that I have good opportunities to study human nature.

Our "Dr." comes in for a brief visit—partly professional and partly social. Fortunately, we have none of us needed him professionally, or else we should not excuse him so readily. He had better not take the risk of neglecting his "patient" friends so long again.

Dear Merry-Go-Rounders: — While I have been absent for a long time, I am still an ardent admirer of the M. G. R. And I call to-day to administer a brisk "emetic" to John E. Short, and to congratulate the active members of the circle on the improvement they have made in the M. G. R. column in the last year. I am now busy practicing my chosen profession, and find but little time to write letters, but I never fail to read our column the very first thing when the paper reaches me. With best wishes and a hearty handshake for all, and especially for Saloonkeeper's Son, I will hasten along and call and see Cow Boy, and charge him for a visit.

Bring the "new housekeeper" with you the next time you come, Dr.

This young lady was brought to the door and introduced to Miss Prudence by Dot. Foye, and we will give her a welcome, both for her own and her sister's sake:

Dear M. G. R.'s: Here I am, look at me. Do I resemble anyone you ever saw? Don't all speak at once. "Shure," as Nora would say, "it's Dot Foye's own self." But no, you are very much mistaken. I am Dot Foye's twin sister, and now that I am identified, I would like to be located in a comfortable seat somewhere near Miss Prudence.

I think the plan that has been proposed—that of a reading circle—will be very nice. And if there is to be a Christmas party, I shall certainly be present.

Dear Miss Prudence:—I'm a farmer.—Jimmie Long.

"Multum in parvo" should certainly be Jimmie's motto.

In this letter from Laura Lane, we have proof of the good that Egyptian Friend's suggestion has accomplished in one instance, and doubtless there are many others who have had the same experience:

I had read The Deserted Village many times, but had never searched for the lesson the author meant to teach until Egyptian Friend made his valuable suggestion. As soon as time could be found in a busy school ma'am's life I began the study.

It seems to me that many beautiful lessons may be drawn from the poem. I will mention two of them.

First, a country's wealth cannot be measured by gold. It is men that make a country rich or poor.

Second, true happiness lies not in wealth and leisure, but in contentment which comes through a knowledge of work well done and pleasure well earned.

Among the new members received to-day is a "Soldier's Daughter," who sends a letter full of pleasant words for us all, and many good thoughts, which you shall all enjoy sometime. "Little Blue Eyes," "A Dakota School-ma'am," "Baby Bye," "Amelia," "K. T. Did," "Pansy" and our long-absent "Pastry Cook" are with us, each one having something nice to say, but we shall be obliged to ask them to "bide a wee," as our space is so limited.

"Savy," an old maid from Tennessee, as she calls herself, has this true word for our consideration: "Slang, like Texas tan, is hard to rid one's self of; one means sallowness of complexion to the end of your existence, the other, coarseness just as long, though both can be overcome by faihful effor. I am trying to wipe both from my face, and character, and when I look in my mirror, or am severely criticised for using slang, I think for my comfort and encouragement: 'Each new fall proves him to be climbing still.'"

She asks if any one can give the name of the author of this quotation.

Each week more of the M. G. R.'s are sending for badges, and soon all of the regular members—that is, those who write the most frequently, will be wearing our colors.

Miss Prudence heard, in a round-about way, from Ferne Hazelton, who was one of the first members of our M. G. R. Is it necessary to tell her that the Chaperone and all of the girls and boys would be glad to hear from her more directly?

For the Christmas number Miss Prudence has for you a pleasure that you will all enjoy. She will then give you a picture of one who is a universal favorite with us. Who can guess her name?

The Chaperone hopes to be able in the near future to introduce to you some of the boys who have helped to make the Merry-Go-Rounds so successful. They have heretofore been too bashful to appear before you, but taking courage from the example of Bonnie Burnie and Isabel they are thinking better of it.

"To shrink from another's suffering because it makes us suffer too, is only a refined kind of selfishness."

Merry-Go-Rounders, listen! The Blade has upon hand a number of the beautiful badges which were gotten up some time ago for your benefit. As they seem too expensive, the publishers have generously decided to cut the price of those which are left in two, that is, so long as they last, they will be sold for 25 cents each. Those who want them will need to order quickly, as there are not nearly enough to go around, and "first come, first served." Now is your chance to secure this lovely pin.

OUR WONDER COLUMN

1.—WHO WAS HE?

He was an eminent financier and diplomatist, born on the 29th of January, 1761, at Geneva, and educated at the university of that city. In 1780 he emigrated to the United States, and was for a short time teacher of French in Harvard college. In 1786 he settled in the western part of Pennsylvania, and represented that state in the Federal congress from 1795 to 1801, taking an active part in every question before that body, and being the first to suggest the forming of a ways and means committee. In 1801 he was appointed secretary of the treasury, filling the office with ability for twelve years. He was one of the signers of the treaty concluded at Ghent on the 14th of December, 1814, and from 1816 to 1823 was minister resident of the United States in Paris. In 1826 he was sent to England as ambassador extraordinary for the purpose of settling the disputed boundary between the United States and the British possessions. In 1827 he retired from public life, and became a resident of New York city, where he died on the 12th of August, 1849.
Annie Laurie.

2.—PRINTERS' PI.

Ymn so fs ninser tneic shete nsatn ome tutno.
C. M. B.

3.—WORD SQUARE.

X X X X X
X X X X X
X X X X X
X X X X X
X X X X X

1.—Hay in the first stage of preservation.
2.—A colorless, gaseous substance contained in the air.
3.—Evil in the superlative degree.
4.—To follow, or come after.
5.—To prevent by force.
B. Van Norman.

4.—ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.

The diagonal of the floor of a square room is 63.63961+ feet, and the diagonal of a side is 46.38494+ feet. How many squares in the floor, ceiling and side walls?
Marley Cranford.

5.—QUERY.

Who was the first man to carry the American flag around the globe?
Alda.

6.—QUOTATION.

Who wrote:
"Not in the clamor of the crowded street,
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng
But in ourselves, are triumphs and defeats."
N. E. Girl.

Answers to Puzzles of November 25.

1.—Marcia Felicite Malibran.
2.—Sir Walter Scott, Lord Byron, Lord Tennyson, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir William Wallace.
3.—P. cow, caret, portion, weird, Tel, N.
4.—Twenty and two-thirds square feet.
5.—The Cap of Maintenance, sometimes called the Cap of Dignity, is made of crimson velvet, lined with ermine, with two points turned back, originally worn only by dukes, but afterwards assigned to various families of distinction. Those families who are entitled to this cap place their crests on it instead of on a wreath. According to Sir John Ferne, the wearing of the cap had a beginning from the duke or general army, who, having gotten victory, causeu the chiefest of the subdued enemies whom he led to follow him in his triumph bearing his hat or cap after him, in token of subjection and captivity. Most of the reigning dukes of Germany and various families belonging to the peerage both of England and Scotland bear their crests on a cap of maintenance.
6.—Jean Paul Richter wrote:
"I would rather dwell in the dim fog of superstition than in the air rarified to nothing by the air-pumps of unbelief."

Chat.

Correct answers received from N. Holt, R. Davis, Marley Cranford, S. J. Phillips, A. Paul, E. J. R.

New work accepted from G. W. B. and E. J. R.

L. D. T.: Your problem is not original, and at present we would rather confine our work to such as are the works of our contributors.

Lee Davidson: While the questions you send are very interesting, they are not exactly what we can use. One of them would be by far too difficult to set up for this column, as it would require too much time. Thank you for sending them, however.

S. J. P.: You have been credited with all the answers received. The answers to the "zone" problem will vary as only an approximate area can be found.

A Constant Reader: Your question is very incompletely stated, and we do not accept questions that are sent without the solution or the answer.

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every edu-

GAGE'S CURRENCY PLAN

Submitted to the House Committee on Banking.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Secretary Gage appeared to-day before the committee on banking and currency of the House of Representatives to present a bill embodying his views for a revision of the currency to explain and urge its provisions, and to meet any objections raised by the committee. The secretary was accompanied by Judge O'Connell, solicitor of the treasury. Copies of the secretary's bill were handed to members of the committee and were scanned with great interest.

After being introduced to the various gentlemen of the committee, Mr. Gage began his statement, speaking in an easy, conversational manner, and following notes. He said in opening: "The objects I have in mind in the series of provisions offered by me are four in number: First, to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard; remove as far as possible, doubts and fears on that point, and thus strengthen the credit of the United States both at home and abroad.

"Second, to strengthen the treasury in relation to its demand liabilities, in which are included greenbacks, treasury notes and the incidental obligation to maintain on a parity, through interchangeability with gold, so far as may be necessary, the present large volume of silver certificates and silver dollars.

"Third, to do this in such a way as not to contract the volume of circulation in the hands of the people.

"Fourth, to take an initial step toward a system of bank note issues without the conditional deposit of public bonds as security therefor. If we prosper as a people, the revenue of the government ought to be somewhat in advance of its expenditures and the public debt of the United States gradually reduced and finally extinguished. Looking at the question widely, from my best point of knowledge and experience, I feel that if these could be secured the condition of the government in its relation to the currency would be much safer and stronger than now, and that through the operation of national bank note currency the commercial and industrial interests of the United States would be greatly advanced."

After this initial statement, it was deemed advisable to read the secretary's bill in detail, and discuss it section by section.

A bill to provide for the refunding of the national debt, for establishing a redemption fund, and a division of issue and redemption in the Treasury of the United States, and to modify existing laws respecting national banks, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted, etc., that there be established in the Treasury Department, as a part of the office of the treasurer of the United States a division to be designated and known as the division of issue and redemption, to which shall be assigned, under such regulations as the secretary of the Treasury may approve, all records and accounts relating to the issue, redemption and exchange as hereinafter provided of the several classes of United States paper money. There shall be transferred from the general fund in the Treasury of the United States and taken up on the books of said division as a redemption fund the sum of $125,000,000 in United States gold coin and bullion and such further sums of standard silver dollars and silver bullion purchased under the act of Congress approved July 14, 1890, as shall equal the silver certificates outside the Treasury and Treasury notes of 1890 outstanding on the date when this act shall take effect: And thereafter the gold and silver coins and bullion hereby transferred from the general fund in the Treasury as herein provided shall be increased or diminished, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of this act, and in no other way.

Sec. 2.—That all United States notes, treasury notes of 1890 and silver certificates presented for redemption shall be redeemed from the redemption fund herein provided, in accordance with the terms of existing law, but the notes and certificates so redeemed shall be held in and constitute a part of said fund, and shall not be withdrawn from said fund nor disbursed, except in exchange for an equivalent amount of the coin in which said notes or certificates were redeemed, but to enable the secretary of the Treasury more thoroughly to carry out the provisions contained in this act he is hereby authorized to exchange any of the funds in the division of issue and redemption for any other funds which may be in the general fund of the Treasury Department: Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed as repealing that provision of the act approved July 14, 1890, which provides that there shall be outstanding at any time no more and no less of the treasury notes authorized by said act than the silver bullion and standard silver dollars coined therefrom then held in the Treasury purchased with said notes.

Bond Issues.

Sec. 3.—That the secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized to receive at the Treasury any of the outstanding bonds known as the 5 percentum bonds of 1904 and the 4 percentum consols of 1907, issued respectively under the act approved January 14, 1875, and the acts approved July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, and to issue in exchange therefor coupon or registered bonds of the United States, in such form as he may prescribe, in decimations of $50, or some multiple of that sum, bearing interest at the rate of 2½ percentum per annum, payable semi-annually, and redeemable at the pleasure of the United States after ten years from the date of their issue, and that bonds hereby authorized shall be payable, principal and interest, in United States gold coin of the present standard value, and shall be exempt from all taxation by or under state, municipal or local authority: Provided, that none of the outstanding bonds shall be received at a valuation greater than their present worth to yield an income of 2½ percentum per annum, and that the bonds hereby authorized shall be issued at not less than par.

Sec. 4.—That the bonds authorized by this act, and any other bonds of the United States, may be deposited with the treasurer of the United States as security for the circulating notes of national banking associations, and any national banking association which may deposit the bonds herein authorized to be deposited as security for its circulating notes shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of the currency and to issue such notes to an amount equal to the face value of such bonds: Provided that the aggregate amount of bonds deposited by any national banking association, under any law, shall not exceed the amount of its capital: And, provided further, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to modify or repeal the provisions of section 5167 and section 5171 of the revised statutes, authorizing the comptroller of the currency to require additional deposit of bonds, or of lawful money, in case the market value of the bonds held to secure the circulating notes shall fall below the par value of the circulating notes outstanding for which such bonds may be deposited as security.

National Bank Circulation.

Section 5.—That any national banking association whose deposit of bonds is less than the amount of its capital may deposit with the treasurer of the United States, under such regulations as the secretary of the treasury may approve, United States notes, treasury notes of 1890 and silver certificates, and shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of the currency and to issue an equal amount of its circulating notes; but the aggregate amount of bonds, United States treasury notes, treasury notes of 1890 and silver certificates deposited by any national banking association shall not exceed the amount of its capital; Provided, that the total amount of United States notes, treasury notes of 1890 and silver certificates deposited with the treasurer of the United States under authority of this section shall not exceed the sum of $200,000,000.

Section 6.—That the secretary of the treasury shall issue from time to time, in his discretion, bonds of the same class and character as those described in the third section of this act, and shall substitute the same with the treasurer of the United States for equal amounts of the United States notes, treasury notes of 1890, and silver certificates deposited by national banking associations, and the bonds so issued and substituted shall be charged to the respective national banking associations, and be accounted for by them at such prices, not less than par, as shall represent the market value of such bonds. And the United States notes, treasury notes of 1890 and silver certificates released as herein provided, shall become a part of the general redemption fund. And the secretary of the treasury is hereby authorized to exchange any of said treasury notes of 1890 and said silver certificates for a like amount of United States notes. Provided, that the amount of bonds issued under the authority of this section shall not exceed the sum of $200,000,000.

Section 7.—When any national bank now existing or hereafter organized shall have deposited such United States notes, treasury notes of 1890, or silver certificates to an amount of not less than 50 percentum of its capital, it shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of the currency, and to issue national bank notes in addition to the 50 percentum thus provided, to the amount of 25 percentum of such deposits; but the circulation issued by any national banking association shall never be in excess of its paid up capital stock, and the additional notes so issued shall not be secured by said deposit, but shall constitute a first lien upon all the remaining assets of the association issuing such notes. Upon the failure of any association to redeem its circulating notes above provided, whether the same are issued against deposited security or against general assets, the same shall be promptly redeemed by the treasurer of the United States. To secure the United States against any loss arising from its guaranty to pay and redeem such additional circulating notes, it shall be the duty of the comptroller of the currency to levy upon and collect from every national banking association issuing such unsecured circulation, a tax at the rate of 2 percentum per annum on such unsecured circulation; which said tax of 2 percentum per annum shall be paid to the treasurer of the United States in equal semi-annual payments in January and July of each year, and when so collected it shall constitute a safety fund out of which the United States shall be reimbursed for any redemption of said unsecured circulation it may make as herein provided. The safety fund thus created shall be invested by the secretary of the treasury in such government bonds as he may consider advisable. Said tax of 2 percentum per annum shall be in addition of the tax of one-half of 1 percentum per annum on circulating notes hereinafter authorized.

Section 8.—That each national banking association shall deposit and maintain in the treasury of the United States a sum of lawful money equal to ten percentum of its aggregate circulation, said sum to be in lieu of the five percentum redemption fund now required by section three of the act approved June 20, 1874, to be maintained, and to be subject to all the provisions of existing law respecting said redemption fund not inconsistent with the provisions of this act. And in consideration of the deposits of bonds, United States notes, treasury notes of 1890 and silver certificates, and the tax of two percentum on the unsecured circulating notes of national banking associations, and of the deposit of lawful money provided in this section, the faith of the United States is hereby pledged to the redemption in lawful money of the United States of all the circulating notes of said national banking associations.

Section 9.—That the comptroller of the currency shall not issue to any national banking association, on and after the date when this act shall take effect, any of the circulating notes of such association of less denomination than ten dollars and whenever any circulating notes of less denomination than ten dollars shall be redeemed or received into the treasury of the United States, they shall be cancelled and destroyed, and other notes of lawful denominations shall be issued in their place.

Section 10.—That on and after the date when this act shall take effect, the circulating notes of the national banking associations shall be redeemed at the office of the United States treasurer, in the city of New York, and at such other subtreasury offices as may be designated by the comptroller of the currency with the approval of the secretary of the treasury. And the circulating notes of each national banking association so redeemed shall be charged to the ten percentum redemption fund of such associations under such regulations as may be prescribed by the comptroller of the currency with the approval of the secretary of the treasury.

Section 11.—That in lieu of all existing taxes every national banking association issuing notes shall pay to the treasurer of the United States in the months of January of each year a tax of one-fourth of one percentum, for each half year upon the average amount of its notes in circulation: Provided, however, that during all the period of time intervening between the deposit of United States notes, treasury notes, and silver certificates and the substitution of bonds by the secretary of the treasury as in this act approved, the circulating notes specially issued therefor and secured by said United States notes, treasury notes, or silver certificates, shall be exempt from taxation under the provisions of this act.

Section 12.—Section 5138 of the revised statutes shall be amended to read as follows:

No association shall be organized with a less capital than one hundred thousand dollars except that banks with a capital of not less than fifty thousand dollars may, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury be organized in any place, the population of which does not exceed six thousand inhabitants; and except that banks with a capital of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars may, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury be organized in any place, the population of which does not exceed two thousand inhabitants. No association shall be organized in a city, the population of which exceeds 50,000 persons with a less capital than two hundred thousand dollars.

This act shall take effect on and after the——day of —— eighteen hundred and ninety ——; and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

A bright girl writes from Cambridge, Massachusetts:

"Last fall I read an article under the head of 'Earning Money for Christmas.' I was not so much interested in earning money for this purpose as I was in obtaining the necessary sum to attend the Christian Endeavor Convention in San Francisco this summer, and was unwilling to ask my father for assistance. I wrote for information, and took up the work. I worked only during leisure hours, and, thanks to your generous assistance, have earned enough to take the desired trip, including a visit to Yellowstone Park, and to pay all the incidental expenses."

This is only one of hundreds of similar letters received.

The Curtis Publishing Company Philadelphia

THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

MINE OF WHISKY

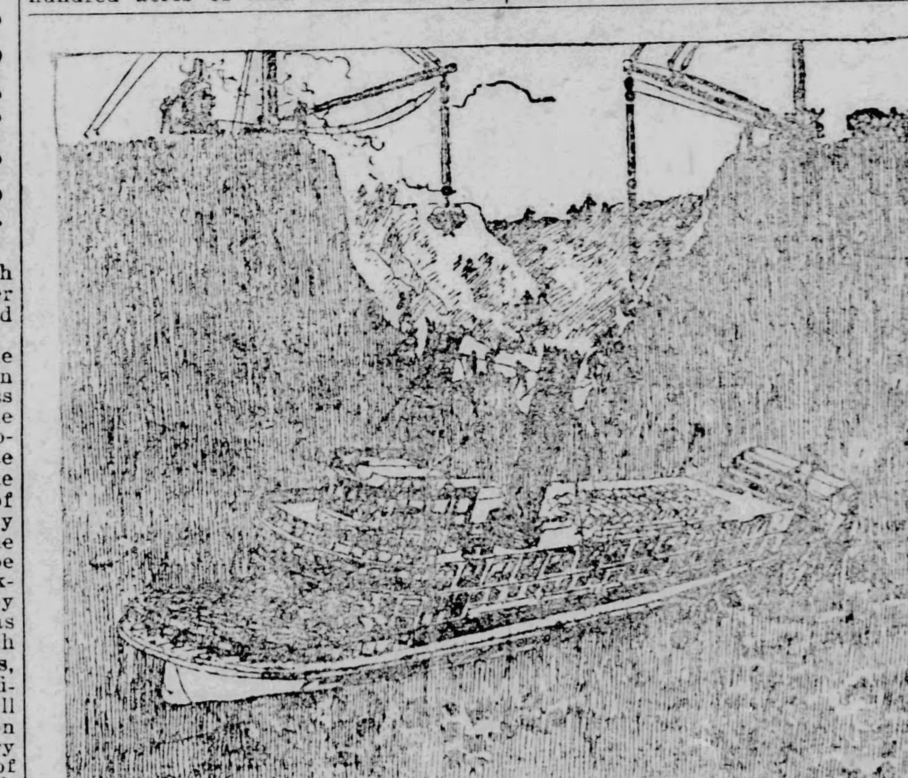
Lies in a River Steamer Buried Under Ground.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 17.—When the river steamboat Arabia sank in the Missouri River, near Parkville, over forty years ago, her cargo included 165 barrels of whisky. For several weeks past a small force of river men have been digging into a sand bar near Parkville in search of the Arabia's valuable cargo. Late yesterday afternoon the diggers uncovered the whisky, finding the barrels well preserved, and last night they notified the United States revenue authorities that they desired to remove their find. The diggers will realize a handsome sum for their work, and the government will receive about $7,000 revenue tax on the liquor.

The following is the account Mr. Eby gives of the finding of the hidden vessel: "Last January I began to think there was a possibility of discovering the lost steamer by a systematic search with a few practical men to help me, and a few of us got together and formed a company, consisting of myself, Gale Henson, T. J. Reece and J. D. Henderson. We procured a lease of five years on several hundred acres of land around the spot where it was thought the lost steamer lay, and began prospecting in earnest. We continued the search long and patiently, and it is now shown that we were so near to the treasure in many of our soundings that we almost scraped the rusty sides of the steamer with our drill points but did not actually touch the spot.

"Our method was to drive iron rods down twenty-five or thirty feet and if we struck nothing but soft earth to pull them up and strike again. We had driven over nearly one hundred acres of land, and were losing heart, when suddenly the drill struck something hard and metallic. We pull it up and tried again a few feet to the right, with the same result; then a few feet to the left, metal again. A third driving showed the same result. Then we knew we had struck our sunken whisky mine.

"The spot where the boat was found is fifteen feet below low water mark and about twenty-six to thirty feet deep in sand. The steamer is evidently deeper in some places than in others, and apparently lies with its bowsprit lower than its stern, and slightly on its side. It is 210 feet long and 60 feet wide. We have everything in readiness to begin the work of excavating the treasure, having obtained air compressors, caissons, boilers and engines, and operations will commence at once. We expect to get 5,000 gallons of whisky, and other merchandise worth in the aggregate at least $100,000.



FINDING THE SUNKEN STEAMER.

EIGHT-HOUR ISSUE,

On Which Labor Will Make a Great Fight.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 18.—The struggle for an eight-hour workday in the United States, to take place on May 1, 1898, is now assured. Two large international unions have been selected to make the fight.

The American Federation yesterday took action which pledges its support to any and all organizations which wish to participate in the movement. It is understood, however, that the International Association of Machinists and the International Pressmen's union will be the standard-bearers in this shorter workday movement.

The movement will be general as regards these two organizations. Strikes will be avoided wherever possible, but where trouble occurs every organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will be bound to walk out in sympathy, if such demands are made upon it on the part of the union declaring the strike.

Immediately steps will be taken to secure a large defense fund. Contributions will be solicited from the various national and international unions, and from all others interested in the shorter workday movement. It is believed several hundred thousand dollars will be raised by May 1 to provide a sinking fund for the maintenance of those who will be compelled to strike in localities where the demand is refused.

The radical element in the convention is exuberent over what it considers a great victory in compelling the conservatives, led by President Gompers, to subscribe to the immediate action. From now until May 1 the work of organization will be pushed as rapidly as possible in every field where the eight-hour day has not been established by the trades unions.

IMMIGRATION.

American Federation Declares in Favor of Some Restriction.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 18.—At to-day's session of the American Federation of Labor the committee on president's report recommended that the president issue an appeal to the unions of the country for contributions of a fund for the aid of the striking engineers of England. It was advised that the federation appropriate $500 for this purpose.

Concerning restriction of immigration the committee recommended that the convention "pronounce itself in favor of a reasonable measure of restriction on the lines of the educational test as contained in the Lodge bill that failed of enactment at the last session of Congress."

The report was discussed at some length.

COADJUTOR BISHOP.

Archdeacon Brown Decides to Go Out to Arkansas.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 16.—Archdeacon William Montgomery Brown, of the Protestant Episcopal church, who was elected coadjutor bishop of Arkansas not many days ago, has decided to accept the high office. He will without much doubt

ARCHDEACON BROWN.

be consecrated at Little Rock on or about January 25.

The archdeacon returned from a visit to his future diocese yesterday and in an interview, said: "I shall undoubtedly accept. Bishop Pierce and the entire diocese gave me the most cordial greeting."

COLLEGE BUILDING BURNED.

Finest Botanical Colection in the United States is In Ruins.

Finest Botannical Collection in the

Easton, Pa., Dec. 18.—Pardee Hall, the magnificent four-story stone structure that stood on the brow of College Hill, this city, and was the pride of Lafayette College, was badly damaged by fire early this morning. Only the east wing was saved from the flames. The center of the structure and the entire west wing were gutted and only the blackened walls were left standing. Besides the damage to the building thousands of dollars worth of valuable property belonging to professors at the college were destroyed by the flames. A heavy portion falls on J. Madison Porter, professor of civil and topographical engineering. His machinery, instruments, etc., were valued at $15,000, on which there was no insurance. Dr. T. C. Porter's botanical collection, probably the finest in the United States, was also destroyed.

The Ward library, consisting of 10,000 volumes of valuable books, is in the ruins along with a valuable museum of minerals and birds. The fire was discovered at 5 o'clock this morning, but it had evidently been burning a long time. The flames raged so fiercely and spread so rapidly by a stiff wind from the west that for three hours the work of the firemen was of no avail. Then aid came from Pillipsburg, N. J.

The students succeeded in carrying from the building many valuable instruments, books, experimental plants, etc. The fire originated in the biological laboratory.

DOLLAR OF 1804.

Say It is in Montana—If Genuine It is Worth a Small Fortune.

Great Falls, Mont., Dec. 20.—If it proves genuine, the last missing coin of the United States dollar issue of 1804 has been discovered in northern Montana. For thirty years coin gatherers and museums have had a standing offer of from $8,000 to $10,000 for the coin. There are but four pieces of this issue in the world. It was brought to light in Teton county a few days ago, when Billy Seymour, a bartender at Chaeau, was counting his cash. His eye caught sight of an odd-looking dollar that had been taken in for drinks. Seymour took the coin, putting an ordinary dollar in the drawer.

The following day he exhibited it to several friends, among whom was one who recognized the dollar of 1804. In a short time every man who had passed a dollar over Seymour's bar that day called to claim the dollar, having "passed it by mistake." Seymour refused to give it up. Several suits are threatened to recover possession. There is little reason to doubt the genuineness of the coin.

VILLAGES MUST GO.

Their Sites Needed for Reservoir Purposes by New York City.

Katonah, N. Y., Dec. 16.—The little village of Whitlockville and old Katonah, each of which has a population of about 500, have been condemned by the New York aqueduct commissioners, and the inhabitants began moving to-day to the new village of Katonah, a mile distant. The sites will be transformed into a reservoir for New York city. The dwellers are heartbroken, and the stormy weather of to-day found many of them and their families in absolute distress. The system adopted in migrating is to elevate the buildings on wooden rollers, which are drawn on timbers, thick with grease, and the structures are pulled along by means of horses. Several thousand bodies in the old Katonah cemetery will also be removed. The poor people who began moving to-day have been on the go from this cause for eight years, and are hopeless of ever acquiring permanent homes.

THE G. A. R.

The Date for the National Encampment Was Fixed at September 5-10.

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 17.—The date for the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was fixed late yesterday afternoon for the week beginning September 5.

The entire day was spent in consultation, and when September 5 to 10 was selected it met the approval of the executive council as well as of the local committee. The utmost good feeling has prevailed and all concerned are looking forward to a most successful encampment.

Mrs. J. M. Davey, president of the Ladies of the G. A. R., was here and selected headquarters at the Grand Hotel for September 5 to 10 for her order.

SAN JOSE SCALE.

It Has Made Its Appearance in Michigan.

Agricultural College, Mich., Dec. 16.—Prof. C. D. Smith returned yesterday from Ottawa county, where he has been doing institute work. He brought back with him a branch from an apple orchard in that county that represents the most exaggerated form of the San Jose scale yet found in the state. Inspector Hedrick pronounced it the worst case he had yet seen outside of the state of Oregon.

The infested orchard is that of a young farmer near Byron Center. The orchard was set out five years ago and consists of 1,200 trees.

The scale was found distributed throughout the entire apple orchard, and a large number of peach trees were also found to be infested. Examination of the forest trees in the vicinity revealed the fact that they, too, had become infected by the scale.

Durant's Sentence.

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—Theodore Durrant was this morning sentenced to be hanged on January 7 next, for the murder of Blanche Lamont.

HIGHEST GRADE SEWING MACHINE $5.00 on easy terms and conditions Retails at $40.00 everywhere. For full particulars and Big Sewing Machine Catalogue FREE cut this ad. out and send to SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Cheapest Supply House on Earth, CHICAGO, ILL.

NO FAITH CURE

ABOUT STUART'S DYSPEPSIA TABLETS.

They Cure Stomach Troubles and Indigestion Anyway, Whether You Have Faith in Them or Not.

All physicians agree that the element of faith has a great deal to do with the cure of disease

Firm belief and confidence in a family physician or the same confidence and faith in a patent medicine, have produced remarkable cures in all ages.

This is especially true in nervous troubles, and no field offers so prolific a harvest for the quack and charlatan, as the diseases arising from a weak or run down nervous system.

Nevertheless, the most common of all diseases, indigestion and stomach troubles, which in turn cause nervous diseases, heart troubles, consumption and loss of flesh, requires something besides faith to cure.

Mere faith will not digest your food for you, will not give you an appetite, will not increase your flesh and strengthen your nerves and heart, but Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will do these things, because they are composed of the elements of digestion, they contain the juices, acids and peptones necessary to the digestion and assimilation of all wholesome food.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will digest food if placed in a jar or bottle in water heated to 98 degrees, and they will do it much more effectively when taken into the stomach after meals, whether you have faith that they will or not.

They invigorate the stomach, make pure blood and strong nerves, in the only way that nature can do it, and that is, from plenty of wholesome food well digested. It is not what we eat, but what we digest that does us good.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists at 50 cents for full sized package.

Little book on cause and cure of stomach troubles mailed free by addressing Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

MANKATO STRICTNESS.

Kansas Town Prohibits Whistling or Singing the Negro Ditty.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 15.—Mankato, Kan., will profit by its example in 1894 and by city ordinance prohibit the singing of "A Hot Time in the Old Town To-Night."

In 1894 the city council of Mankato enacted an ordinance under the nuisance law, fining every person 50 cents for each and every time he or she might be proved guilty of whistling or singing "After the Ball" between the hours of 6 o'clock in the morning and 10 o'clock at night.

The "hot time" song, with its negro dialect, is hummed, whistled and sung by half of the population in Kansas. It has become a nuisance at Mankato and the city council will suppress it by ordinance.

FIRE AT GRAND FORKS.

Big Hotel and Several Wholesale Establishments Burned.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 17.—A special to the Journal from Grand Forks, N. D., says that a loss of nearly a million dollars was caused there early this morning by fire.

The Hotel Dakotah, a large five-story structure that cost $250,000, was completely destroyed, as were the two large wholesale stores adjoining. Nash Bros., and the Grand Forks Mercantile Co. Nash Bros. were grocers and fruit and cigar wholesalers, and the Mercantile Company dealt in groceries. Both concerns occupied a brick building about 100 feet square and four or five stories high.

WONDROUS PRECOCITY.

Seven-Year-Old Boy Successfully Passes Examination in Law.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 15.—Byron Gilbert, the 7-year-old son of Judge W. D. Gilbert, of Atchison, is a legal prodigy. Yesterday he stood an examination before the Kansas Supreme Court and answered every legal question put to him in such an accurate manner as to astound the justices. Ex-United States Senator John Martin, clerk of the Supreme Court, issued him a certificate to practice. However, it contained a provision required by the state constitution that the certificate should not take effect until the prodigy is of age.

PITTSBURG CITIZENS

Have Started a Boom for the National Encampment in 1900.

Pittsburg, Dec. 20.—The initial step towards securing the Grand Army of the Republic encampment in 1900 was taken Saturday night by the Allegheny county G. A. R., Association and the plan will be stated at the coming Cincinnati encampment. In connection with the encampment, if it should be held here, it is proposed to unveil a grand soldiers' monument to cost in the neighborhood of $500,000.

UNCLE TOM DEAD.

Notable Funeral Given Lewis George Clark.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 20.—Lewis George Clark, colored, distinguished as being the original of the character George Harris in Mrs. Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, was given a notable funeral here yesterday. His body lay in state for five hours and was viewed by hundreds. It will be buried beside his wife's grave at Oberlin, O.

Advance in Rubber.

New York, Dec. 16.—The Mechanical Rubber Manufacturing Association met here and discussed the recent advance of 10 per cent in the price of the goods manufactured by its members. It was decided that another advance of 5 or 10 per cent will be necessary on account of continued high price of crude rubber. It will probably be made January 1.

FOREIGN NEWS.

TURKS MADE A BREAK.

Fired Upon an American Gunboat and Forced to Apologize.

Constantinople, Dec. 21.—It appears that when the United States Ship Bancroft arrived at Smyrna, on the night of December 4, she was greeted with a blank cannon shot and rifle bullets from the fort of Venikale. A boat from the warship sent shorewards to ask for explanations, was fired upon and compelled to return. Thereupon the American admiral lodged a protest with the United States minister here, Dr. James B. Angell, who demanded the punishment of the guilty parties and an apology from the Turkish government, which was given on Sunday last. In addition two Turkish officers were dismissed and sentenced to a week's arrest.

PROBABLY HANGED

For Going to Cubans With Offers of Bribes.

New York, Dec. 17.—A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says:

Much anxiety is felt for the safety of Lieut. Col. Joaquin Ruiz, aide de camp to General Blanco, who, it is feared, has met death as the penalty for bearing a proposition for surrender to a rebel camp. It seems that Colonel Ruiz is a personal friend of Colonel Aranguerin, who was employed by him before the war, when Colonel Ruiz was the engineer in charge of the Vento water works.

Recently, under orders from General Blanco, Colonel Ruiz opened correspondence with Colonel Aranguerin with the object of arranging an interview. Colonel Aranguerin wrote that he would meet the colonel if the latter only desired to talk of personal affairs, to which the colonel replied that he wished to talk about political matters.

Colonel Aranguerin wrote that he would absolutely refuse to receive him on these conditions, and called his attention earnestly to General Gomez's orders that all persons entering insurgent camps to offer terms of surrender should be put to death. He assured Colonel Ruiz that he was prepared to carry out the order to the letter, and while he esteemed him highly as an old friend, he would hang him if he neglected the warning.

In spite of this, Colonel Ruiz started alone on Sunday for Colonel Aranguerin's camp, determined to risk all in the attempt. In leaving he said if he had not returned by Tuesday night he might be given up as dead. So far nothing has been heard of him and there is little room for doubt that the insurgent leader has put his threat into execution with a Spartan resolution.

If this be true, much regret will be felt even in Cuban circles in Havana, where Colonel Ruiz was well known as a gallant soldier and an accomplished gentleman, but it is pointed out that his death will have a good effect as showing the indomitable spirit animating the insurgent leaders.

ON A VOLCANO.

Fears of a Revolutionary Outbreak in Spain.

London, Dec. 17.—According to the St. James Gazette private letters received here from Madrid says that General Weyler's reception there was most significant and that the government is so alarmed by the menacing attitude of the populace that artillery has been stationed at concealed points commanding the main thoroughfares. The gunners, however, cannot be relied upon. The wildest rumors are current, says the letters in question, that preparations are making for the flight of the royal family to France at the first signs of a revolution.

IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Spain Claims That the Rebels Have Been Subdued.

Madrid, Dec. 17.—Marshall Primo Rivera, the governor general of the Philippines, has sent a dispatch to the government, according to the Gazette, saying that in his opinion the submission of the rebels is due to the recent Spanish victories and that a peace has been obtained which leaves Spain's honor secure. He asks the government's approval of the steps he has taken and sanction for the rebel chiefs to emigrate.

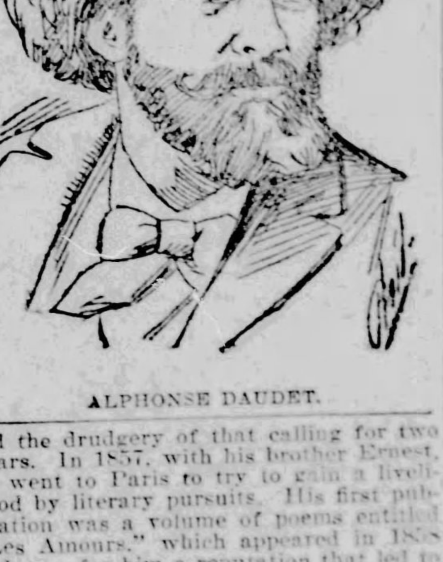
Senor Sagasta, the premier, telegraphed the requested authority in reply with congratulations and expressions of the queen regents gratification.

ALPHONSE DAUDET DEAD.

Great French Writer Suddenly Passed Away.

Paris, Dec. 17.—Alphonse Daudet is dead. M. Daudet expired at 8 o'clock last night. He was dining with his family and was in excellent spirits, when he was seized with a sudden syncope. Physicians were summoned, but he died almost immediately.

Alphonse Daudet was born at Nimes of poor parents, May 13, 1840. After studying in the Lyceum at Lyons he became an usher in a school at Alais and



ALPHONSE DAUDET.

did the drudgery of that calling for two years. In 1857, with his brother Ernest, he went to Paris to try to gain a livelihood by literary pursuits. His first publication was a volume of poems entitled "Les Amours," which appeared in 1858 and won for him a reputation that led to his employment on several newspapers.

The Figaro opened its columns to a description of "Les Cueux de Province," in which he depicted with extreme earnestness the miseries and sufferings of the ushers in provincial schools. He next published "La Double Conversion," a poem which was followed in 1863 by "Le Roman du Chaperon Rouge," a collection of articles that had appeared originally in the Figaro.

He wrote also for the stage with success, composing in conjunction with M. Ernest Lepine two pieces, "La Dernier Idole," which was presented at the Odeon in 1862, and "L'Oeillet Blanco," which was presented at the Comedie Francaise in 1865. He was private secretary of the Duc de Morny, president of the Corps Legislatif, from 1861 to 1865 inclusive. He then made several attempts to write for the theater, but the results were decided failures.

It was while writing under the name of "Baptiste" or under his real name novels, tales, and newspaper articles that he achieved his real popularity.

RUSSIA'S GRAB.

Forces of the Czar Have Occupied Port Arthur.

London, Dec. 18.—A despatch to the Standard from Vienna says it is rumored there that Russians have occupied Port Arthur.

Port Arthur, which is situated at the extremity of the Leao-Tong peninsula, has practically been in the hands of Russia for some time past. After the Japanese evacuated the port which was the scene of the terrible massacre of Chinese during the war with Japan, Russian engineers began supervising the reconstruction of the docks and forts, which had been destroyed by the Japanese previous to leaving the place.

Previous to the war between China and Japan, Port Arthur was the largest naval station possessed by the Chinese and was strongly fortified. There was a naval dock yard there, built by the French company, a large refitting basin with a depth of 25 feet at low water, spacious wharves and quays, two docks, one 400 feet long, and facilities for repairing ships of all sies, from ironclads to torpedo boats. The foundries and workshops were constructed on the most improved models and contained the best modern machinery. Japan was very anxious to hold Port Arthur permanently, but Russia strongly objected and would have backed up her objections by force. Russia's great anxiety to possess Port Arthur is due to the fact that the harbor is free from ice all the winter, which is not the case with Vladivostock, the present headquarters of the Russian fleet in the far East. It is proposed to connect Port Arthur with the Russian railroad now being built through Manchoria, which in turn will connect with the great trans-Siberian railroad.

HE SENDS IT FREE.

A Never Failing Remedy That Makes a Man Young Again.

TRUE MANLINESS QUICKLY REPLACES THE WORN OUT NERVES AND VIGOR.

When a man's strength and vigor is slowly wasting away from nervous weakness, the mental forebodings are ten times worse than the most severe pain. There is no let-up to the mental suffering day or night. For years the writer rolled and tossed on the troubled sea of Nervous Debility, Emissions, Lame Back, and the various other troubles of Sexual Weakness, until it was a question whether he had not better take a dose of poison and thus end all his troubles. But providential inspiration came to his aid in the shape of a combination of medicines that completely restored his general health and enlarged his weak, emaciated parts to natural size and vigor, and he now declares that any man, young or old, who will take the trouble to send his name and address may have Free full particulars of this wonderful home treatment which quickly restored me to my full strength and vigor of youth. Now when I say free I mean absolutely without cost, because I want every weakened man to get the benefit of my experience.

There are thousands of men suffering the mental tortures of weakened manhood who would be cured at once could they but get such a remedy as the one that cured me. Send for it, and learn that there are a few things on earth although they cost nothing to get are worth a fortune to some men, and mean a lifetime of happiness to most of us. Write to Thomas Slater, Box 153, Masonic Temple, Kalamazoo, Mich., and the information will be mailed in a plain, sealed envelope.

CHINA YIELDS.

Germany Will Be Allowed to Keep Chiao-Chow.

London, Dec. 18.—A special dispatch from Shanghai asserts that China will acquiesce in Germany's retaining Chiao-Chow. Russia and France are irritated at Germany's precipitancy in thus prematurely disclosing her plans to England and Japan in a manner likely, says the dispatch, to defeat the objects in view.

German Expedition to China.

Kiel, Dec. 18.—The North German Lloyd steamer Darmstadt, having on board half the number of volunteers bound for China and an immense amount of war material, left here to-day for the far East. The steamer Crefeld will follow in a fortnight with the rest of the volunteers and more war material.

LAURIER AMAZED.

At the Prospects for a Great Rush to the Klondike.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier said to-day about the coming immigration to the Yukon that he was amazed at the proportions which the movement toward the Klondike is assuming all over the world. From official information he was of the opinion that the immigration from abroad would largely exceed any conservative estimate hitherto made. The government found itself face to face with a possible situation little dreamed of a few months ago. Although gold had been mined in the Yukon for some years, the news of the richness of that region was unknown until Inspector Constantine gave it to the world last spring.

The premier said the government was giving the situation the most careful consideration. Parliament would devote a due part of its time to matters connected with the Yukon territory. The attention of the government is now principally directed toward the permanent settlement and development of the northern and western territory, where multitudes of the gold hunters will probably end their quest by settling down after the gold fever has abated. The government is actuated by no spirit of cupidity, and will impose no greater burdens upon the miners and immigrants than will be reasonable and just.

The full staff of the Interior Department, with extra clerks, is working overtime just now on account of the pressure of business arising from Yukon affairs.

SINGULAR STORY

Regarding the Recent War With Turkey.

London, Dec. 18.—The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Greece, otherwise the Duke and Duchess of Sparta, will soon leave Athens to be absent for a year. Prince Constantine is suffering from severe nervous depression, and he and his wife, the Princess Sophia of Prussia, will go to the Riviera and then to Germany and England.

Henry Labouchere is the author of a sensational article in Truth, the authority for which is a well-known foreign diplomat. The article says: "Greece was involved in the war with Turkey owing to the endeavor of King George to bluff the Czar into hurrying the marriage of Princes Mario. The Czar declined to interfere, and King George, knowing that Russia was most desirous that there should be no disturbances in the south of Europe, played with the war party until it got beyond his control. The Czar then warned King George that the Turks would occupy Athens and that his dynasty would cease to reign. King George finally entered into an arrangement with Russia, the latter promising the Turks should not go beyond Thessaly provided no real stand was made against them, that the Greek forces in Epirus would not seriously operate against Janina and that the Greek fleet would remain inactive. All these arrangements were carried out, the crown Prince, Prince George and Colonel Vasso all having secret orders from the king."

The Daily Chronicle, which continues to champion the cause of the Greek royal family, professes to know that the story is untrue, but it is generally believed.

MELBOURNE FIRE

Was More Disastrous Than at First Reported.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—The great fire in Melbourne on the morning of November 22 was far more destructive than was indicated in the brief cable report of the disaster. Mail advices brought by the steamer Moana state that the entire district bounded by Elizabeth, Flanders and Swanton streets and Flanders Lane, comprising the great warehouse emporium of Victoria was putted and reduced to a mass of tottering ruins. The total amount of damage done is estimated at $7,500,000.

About 1,000 regular employes engaged in the soft goods warehouses were thrown out of work for some time at least, and about 1,000 hands employed in the clothing factories and in other places will also suffer severely for a time owing to the destruction of raw material. The theory of lightning has been advanced to account for the origin of the fire.

MAGNA CHARTA DAY.

Seven Hundredth Anniversary of Signing the Charter.

London, Dec. 18.—To-day being the 700th anniversary of the signing by King John of the charter of the City of Limerick, Ireland, appropriate exercises were held in that borough, the day being observed as a public holiday. After the exercises at the town hall the ancient and curious custom of "beating the bounds" was observed in accordance with the charter. Under this custom the mayor and town clerk are compelled to make a circuit of the city, and to inflict corporal chastisement on any small boy they may chance to find hanging about the bounds. Due notice having been given, the pilgrimage of the officials was without result, the small boys keeping out of the way until the mayor and his associates had returned to the town hall.

WAR IMPENDING

Between the Northern Nations of Sweden and Norway.

London, Dec. 20.—A dispatch from Christiana to the Daily Chronicle says the political situation, since the failure of the united committee on foreign affairs, has become critical, and it is feared that Sweden will seek an occasion for armed intervention in Norway. The dispatch adds that the Swedish press hopes for assistance from Emperor William.

The admiral of the German squadron, which has just left Christiana, at a dinner of Norwegian officers, made a speech which, if not openly menacing, conveyed and implied threat. The Norwegian officers were much disgusted.

Will Tackle Khyber Pass.

Simla, Dec. 16.—Gen. Sir William Lockhart has decided to send a column of troops to re-open the Khyber pass marching up from Jamrud. Then from Ali Musjid the column will descend into the bazaar valley and punish the tribesmen in that district.

Reindeer for the Klondike.

Trondhjem, Norway, Dec. 15.—An agent of the United States government named Kjeltberg, has arrived here to buy reindeer for the Klondike relief expedition.

Dr. Hunter's Book on the Lungs.

Progress of Medical Science.

A little book, published by Dr. Robert Hunter, of 117 West 45th street, New York, gives all the latest discoveries and improvements in the theory and treatment of Lung Diseases. Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrh and Consumption are fully explained, their differences shown, and their cure by medicated air inhalations pointed out.

Dr. Hunter is the oldest lung specialist in America, having devoted his life, since 1851, to the special study and cure of Lung Complaints. He was the first physician to proclaim the local nature of Consumption, and to prove that it, Bronchitis, Asthma and Catarrhal Phthisis, endanger life solely by strangling the breathing power of the Lungs.

Dr. Hunter's treatment is applied directly to the bronchial tubes and air cells of the lungs by inhalation. He was the father and founder of this treatment, the inventor of the first inhaling instrument ever employed in medical practice, and the discoverer of the only germicidal inhalants which have proved their power to destroy the bacilli of tuberculosis in the lungs, and cure consumption. In addition to applying healing and cleansing balms to the lungs three times a day by his inhaling instruments, he anoints the chest with antiseptic oils, which surround the body with a zone of medicated air, and charges the chamber in which the patient sleeps with purifying antiseptics, thus keeping up a healing action on the lungs day and night.

This is what is meant by inhalation treatment scientifically applied to the cure of weak and diseased lungs. No other treatment in the world is so direct, common sense and successful. It is not sold but prescribed for each case according to the nature and stage of the disease and condition of the patient.

Dr. Hunter's Book contains many letters from prominent people all over the country who have been successfully treated by him, and will be sent free to readers of the Toledo Blade interested for themselves or friends, by addressing him 117 West 45th street, New York.

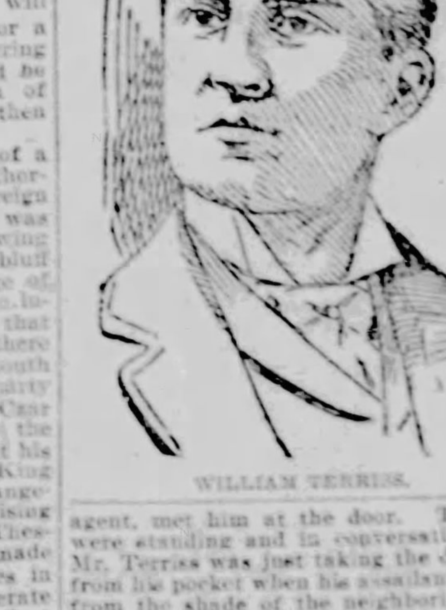
ACTOR TERRISS

Stabbed by an Assassin at the Door of the Theatre.

London, Dec. 17.—William Terriss, the well-known actor, was assassinated, being stabbed with a knife as he was entering the stage door of the Adelphi Theatre last night. William Terriss has been playing in London in the English version of William Gillette's drama, Secret Service.

The murderer rushed at the actor as he was stepping across the pavement from his cab and stabbed him just below the heart. As the actor fell his murderer was seized by people who were outside the theatre. The wounded man was carried into the theatre, and doctors were called from the Charing Cross Hospital, but Terriss expired in 15 minutes.

Mr. Terriss had alighted from a cab at the stage door in Maiden Lane, used only by himself and the members of the company. Mr. Gilbert Tate, the theatrical



WILLIAM TERRISS.

agent, met him at the door. The two were standing and in conversation, and Mr. Terriss was just taking the door key from his pocket when his assailant darted from the shade of the neighboring shop and plunged the knife into his breast, almost bearing him to the ground with the force of the blow. Mr. Terriss dropped his glove and tried to seize his assailant, who then dealt two more stabs before the bystanders had time to interfere.

The assassin made no attempt to escape. When seized he offered to go quietly to the police station. Miss Millward, when it was seen that Mr. Terriss was dying, completely broke down with grief.

The murderer gives the name of Richard Arthur Prince, but he was known at the theatre as Archer. His wife has been employed there as a dresser. Since he left the Adelphi Archer has several times begged aid from the different theatrical funds of whose companies Mr. Terriss was a member.

Murderer Arraigned.

London, Dec. 17.—Richard Arthur Prince, known as "Mad Archer," who yesterday evening stabbed and killed William Terriss, the well known actor, as the latter was on the point of entering the stage door of the Adelphia Theatre, in order to take part in the presentation of "Secret Service," was arraigned at Bow street police court to-day, charged with the crime and was remanded until Wednesday next.

A policeman, Bragg, testified that the prisoner had said that he had stabbed Mr. Terriss for revenge, as the actor had debarred him from employment for ten years past and forced him to either die in the streets or be revenged upon him. The prisoner also accused Mr. Terriss of blackmailing him in connection with the theatrical fund.

After the prisoner left the dock he was loudly hissed and hooted. Prince was deadly pale.

WAS IT INCENDIARY?

Startling Suspicion Regarding the London Conflagration.

London, Dec. 15.—During the course of to-day's inquiry into the recent great fire in the Cripplegate district of London, the city solicitor, Mr. Henry Homewood Crawford, made a sensational statement. He said the inquest had assumed grave importance. The expert evidence, he continued, had proved that the fire was not accidental, and the evidence agreed that the fire was started in a stack of clothing in the show room of Waller & Brown, mantle manufacturers. Mr. Brown, he added, could not escape the fact that he was the only persons in the show room just prior to the outbreak, and it was only fair to state, said the city solicitor in conclusion, that Mr. Brown was perfectly willing to re-enter the witness box and give any further details he could on the subject.

BISMARCK ILL.

The Man of Iron is Rapidly Declining.

London, Dec. 18.—A special despatch from Hamburg says: "Prince Bismarck who braced up for the emperor's visit, has relapsed into his former weakness, despondency and persistent insomnia. Mentally and physically Prince Bismarck is rapidly declining."

Ten-Hour Day in France.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The chamber of deputies to-day, in spite of the objections of M. Turrel, the minister of public works, adopted a proposal fixing upon ten hours as a days' work for railroad employes. This is to be followed by ten hours' rest.

Non-Catholic Marriages in Peru.

Lima, Peru, Dec. 16.—After a warm debate yesterday the senate passed the bill as to non-Catholic marriages, which had already received the sanction of the chamber of deputies.

WASHINGTON.

NOMINATIONS.

The President Sends a Long List to the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Joseph McKenna, of California, to be associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Charles G. Dawes, of Illinois, to be comptroller of the currency.

John W. Nesbit, of Pennsylvania, to be pension agent at Pittsburg.

Court of Private Land Claims—Joseph R. Reed, of Iowa, to be chief justice; William W. Murray, of Tennessee; Thomas C. Fuller, of North Carolina; Henry C. Sluss, of Kansas, and Wilbur F. Stone, of Colorado, to be associate justices; re-appointments, their terms expiring December 31, 1897.

Lewis Miles, attorney of the United States for the Southern district of Iowa; Robert V. Cozier, attorney of the United States for the district of Idaho; Henry C. Dockery, marshal of the United States for the Eastern district of North Carolina.

The President also sent in a large number of appointments which were made during the recess of the Senate, and which have heretofore been announced.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate:

William W. Thomas, jr., of Maine, to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Sweden and Norway.

Hamilton King, of Michigan, to be minister resident and consul general of the United States to Siam.

James C. McNally, of Pennsylvania, to be secretary of legation and consul general of the United States at Bogota, Columbia.

Edward O. Achorn, of Massachusetts, to be secretary of the legation of the United States at St. Petersburg, Russia.

Nathan B. Scott, of West Virginia, to be commissioner of internal revenue.

To be consuls of the United States—George H. Moulton, of Colorado, at Demerera, British Guinea; Robert P. Dooley, of New York, at St. Helena; Louis H. Ayme, of Illinois, at Guadaloupe, West Indies; W. Stanley Hollis, of Massachusetts, at Lourenco, Marquese, Africa; Levi S. Wilcox, of Illinois, at Hankow, China; Chester Donaldson, of New York, at Managua, Nicaragua; Robert P. Skinner, of Ohio, at Versailles, France; Frank W. Mahin, of Iowa, at Reichenberg, Bohemia; Marshal Halstead, of New York, at Birmingham, England; Harlan W. Brush, of New York, at Clifton, Ont.; Charles W. Merriman, of Wisconsin, at Brockville, Ont.; Daniel E. McGinley, of Wisconsin, at Athens, Greece; Lemuel W. Livingston, of Florida, at Cape Haitien, Hayti; John C. Billheimer, of Indiana, at Zanzibar, Zanzibar; John K. Pollard, of Ohio, to be consul general of the United States at Monterey, Mex.; Lewis Dexter, of Rhode Island, to be consul of the United States at Leeds, England.

There is also a list of minor appointments in the treasury and interior departments and the navy.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the senate:

William P. Williams, to be assistant treasurer of the United States at Chicago.

William Penn Nixon, collector of customs for the district of Chicago.

Archibald A. Young, surveyor of customes for the part of Indianapolis, Ind.

Henry C. Grenner, collector of internal revenue for the first dictrict of Missouri.

John H. Walkenhorst, appraiser of merchandise at the port of St. Louis, Mo.

John L. Hodges, assayer in charge of the mint of the United States at Denver.

Joseph Spear, jr., surveyor of customs in the district of San Francisco, Cal.

John C. Ames, marshal of the United States for the northern district of Illinois.

Frank W. Parker and John R. McFie, associate justices of the supreme court of the territory of New Mexico.

James L. Martin, attorney of the United States for the district of Vermont.

George L. Darte, of Pennsylvania to be consul at Martinique, West Indies.

Issac W. Dyer, of Maine, to be attorney of the United States for the district of Maine.

MONETARY COMMISSION

Has Concluded Its Deliberations and a Report is Ready.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The monetary commission reached the conclusion of its deliberations yesterday, and the chairman, Senator Edmunds, declared the commission adjourned without day. The closing proceedings were interesting. The work of going over the report in detail was prolonged late into the night of Thursday and was not quite completed when the committee met yesterday. Such changes as were approved were finally considered and referred to the executive committee and the secretaries for incorporation in the final draft.

The final publication of the commissions report will be delayed for some days pending its completion by the secretaries. A bill carrying out fully the conclusions of the committee is in course of preparation by a sub-committee in co-operation with the active committee and will be ready for presentation in the house when Congress reassembles after the holidays.

Preparations for an earnest campaign will be begun by the executive committee in anticipation of the convention which has been called for January 25, at which they hope for enthusiastic support.

KLONDIKE RELIEF.

It Will Be a Mission Requiring Plenty of Courage.

Washington, Dec. 18.—When the Klondike relief bill, which has passed both branches of Congress, gets into conference, a provision will be added giving the war department authority to use the military arm of the government in the execution of the relief measures. While there is little doubt as to the right to detail officers and men for this purpose, yet the department officials want specific authority in order to obviate any question as to using the military arm for civilian purposes. It is not anticipated that a large military force will be required. It has been stated to members of Congress that the officer to have charge of the expedition has not yet been selected. The selection will not, however, come from the highest rank of the army, as it is felt that from the grades of captain, major or colonel a choice can be made which will insure the executive ability necessary for the execution of such a task. The war department authorities look with much favor on this expedition, as it will draw officers and men from the inactivities of garrison life and give them a mission in which courage and daring analogous to that of actual military service will be required.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

Great Gain in Imports Over the Same Month Last Year.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The monthly statement of the imports and exports of merchandise, gold and silver, issued by the bureau of statistics, shows that the exports of domestic merchandise during November last amounted to $114,608,301, a gain of nearly $7,000,000 as compared with November, 1896. The imports of merchandise during November aggregated $52,352,331, of which over 50 per cent was free of duty. The gain for the month in the imports of dutiable merchandise was over $5,300,000. The entire gain in the imports was $68,492,194.

The exports of gold during November aggregated $699,340, and the imports $2,505,308. For the nine months the imports exceeded the exports by about $7,000,000.

The exports of silver during November amounted to $4,979,277, and the imports $1,544,305. For the nine months the exports of silver amounted to $52,551,962, and the imports $11,017,012.

The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes one-third further than any other brand.

ROYAL

BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

SILVER IN THE TREASURY.

Count of the Coin Develops the Fact That Stealing Has Been Done.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The amount of money discovered to have been stolen from the treasury of the United States is steadily growing. The count of the silver being made is showing a much larged deficiency than was anticipated. The thefts have been made in all places and on all occasions. It is even suspected now that the vault doors have been tampered with in the past.

To remedy this evil at least, and provide against any such occurrences in the future, Treasurer Roberts has had burglar alarms placed on all the vault and safe doors in his division of the treasury. The alarms are so fixed that if any of the doors are touched the alarm is sounded in the rooms of the captain of the watch, and also in the local offices of the burglar alarm company. The work on these has just been finished.

Treasurer Roberts is growing tired of the slowness of the count of silver. It was intended at first to have the count finished by the first of April, but now it is expected that it will be completed by February 1. The force on the count has been increased and in the last week nine hundred thousand dollars have been counted each day instead of seven hundred odd thousand dollars.

The hurrying up of the count is due to some of the latest developments. The first discoveries showed that silver dollars had been extracted from the bags in which they were contained and pieces of lead of equal weight inserted. In the last few weeks, though, it was been found that the thefts have been scattered over a greater territory than at first thought.

One of the sacks filled and sealed at the San Francisco mint, when opened, was found partly filled with shot. A number of dollars had been taken out, and the shot was inserted. This discovery shocked the treasury officials, and urgent orders were given to hurry the count. It is feared that the total amount will be found very large. That is why the count is be ended by February 1.

There is a persistent rumor, too, that there is a gold shortage, but the treasury officials are denying it strenuously.

NO MERIT SYSTEM.

Pension Commissioner Does Not Believe in Civil Service Law.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Commissioner of Pensions Evans appeared before the senate committee on civil service and retrenchment which is conducting an investigation into the operation of the civil service system. Mr. Evans was questioned at length by Senators Lodge and Pritchard about the civil service system and its application to the pension office force. He expressed the opinion that the law did not accomplish the results its friends insisted that it did. The best men in his office were those who had come in under the so-called "spoils system." They did their duty and expected to hold their positions by so doing. The pension examining boards he said, ought not to be in the classified service, as it was desirable to secure men as members of such boards who had wide surgical experience—army experience if possible, and such men would not enter into competition for the places with young men just out of college. He thought, however, that the entire system of appointing the boards was wrong and that all of them ought to be under a uniform system of appointment. The commissioner believed that the head of a bureau was in the best qualified position to pass upon the efficiency of a clerk, and that he ought not to be hampered in removing a clerk for inefficiency. If permitted to do so, he could remove at least 100 clerks from his office without affecting the efficiency of the force. He thought it would be desirable to have a definite tenure of office, not exceeding ten years, so that every year about 10 per cent of new blood could be infused into the force. This would do away with the abuses resulting from some clerks remaining in office too long. The commissioner thought some reform would have to be enacted, or the country would have the infliction of a civil pension list. He believed it was a mistake to include in the classified service, the special examiners, medical boards, chiefs of divisions and all others who draw salaries exceeding $1,400.

BUT A SHAM.

Autonomy for Cuba is Very Much of a Trick.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Full copies of the Sagasta autonomy scheme have been received at the Cuban legation here and Senor Gonzalo de Quesada, the charge d'affaires says without hesitation the Spanish plan "is merely a trick to delay action by the United States and to dupe the Cubans now in arms if possible." In discussing the section which creates the council of administration, Senor Quesada said: "It declares that eighteen members shall be elected and seventeen members appointed by the governor general in the name of the king. Any impartial observer can see this upper chamber will be always controlled by Spain, and if we further consider the requisites for membership no doubt can remain.

"It is necessary to have an annual income of $4,000 for a man to be either elected or selected to the council of administration, and from this it can be seen that wealth and not wisdom and ability is the prime requisite for such preferment.

"This income requirement would keep out the great majority of representative Cubans of the professional classes, such as lawyers, physicians, journalists, and the other brainy men who are usually selected for such positions, and would open the doors to many Spaniards who have gained ill-gotten fortunes by reason of the Cuban war. Americans can judge from this if the decree does not seek legislation in favor of the privileged few, who will strive to maintain their monopoly of Cuban affairs at all hazards."

Revenue Collections Increase.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The monthly statement of the collections of internal revenue show that for the month of November last receipts amounted to $13,959,296, an increase as compared with November last year of $1,257,927. For the last five months, however, there is shown to have been a decrease of $5,912.

To Naturalize Chinese.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Representative Smith, of Illinois, by request, introduced a bill yesterday to permit the naturalization of Americanized Chinese, making eligible only male Chinese of good repute, resident in the United States for ten years, who have discarded the Chinese dress, adopted that of this country and who speak English.

Bankruptcy Bill.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The bankruptcy bill on the lines of the Henderson-Culberson bill, passed by the House at the last session, involving both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy, was reported to the full committee yesterday.

JAPANESE CRUISERS.

Two Being Built in America Will Soon Be Launched.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The Japanese legation has been informed that the two new cruisers which Japan is having built in this country are so well along toward completion that they will both be launched within the next few weeks. The cruiser at the Cramps shipyard at Philadelphia has been christened the Kasagi-Kan, and the launching has been set for January 20. Minister Hoshi and the staff of the legation will attend the launching, and a number of guests will be invited to participate in the ceremony. The cruiser at the Union Ironworks at San Francisco has been amed the Chitose. The launching will occur some time in February but the exact day has not been set. The cruiser's are alike in all respects, having a tonnage of about 5,000 each, and the contracts call for a speed of 22 knots an hour.

Confirmations.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The Senate has confirmed a large number of promotions in the army, the most important being the following:

Col. Samuel Breck, assistant adjutant general, to be adjutant general with rank of brigadier general.

Capt. Henry O. Sheldon Heistand, Eleventh Infantry, to be assistant adjutant general with rank of major.

Col. William H. Bell, assistant commissary general of subsistence, to be commissary general of subsistence with rank of brigadier general.

McKenna's Nomination Referred.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The nomination of Attorney General McKenna to succeed Justice Field on the supreme bench was referred to the committee on judiciary in yesterday's executive session, but Chairman Hoar of that committee stated he would not ask the committee to consider the nomination until after the reconvening of the senate in January.

Immigrant Bill.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The house committee on immigration has decided to make a favorable report on the educational test bill. This requires all immigrants on reaching here to be able to read or write the English or some other language.

Mexican Boundary.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate in executive session ratified the treaty of the extension for one year of the time for completing the marking of the Mxican boundary line.

Congress Takes a Recess.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Both houses of Congress have adjourned until Jan. 5 next. The Klondike relief bill was put through its final stages before adjournment.

Diplomatic Function Omitted.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The secretary of state has decided to omit the diplomatic corps, on New Year's day in view of the death of the President's mother.

BEEN MAKING MONEY.

Mark Twain Squaring Up With All Creditors.

New York, Dec. 17.—Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) has done what few men do.

"I will pay 50 per cent of your claims," he said to the creditors of Charles L. Webster & Co., book publishers, of which firm he was a partner, in August, in 1895, "and I ask that you trust to my honor to pay the other 50 per cent as fast as I can earn it."

So Mark Twain started out to lecture for the benefit of his creditors. He argued that he could have the last dollar paid in four years, and then, at the age of 64, he could make a "fresh and unincumbered start" in life.

It became known to-day that Mr. Clemens had kept his promise. He had paid to his creditors, it was said an additional 25 per cent in cash, and soon will settle the full amount of all claims against the firm.

Mr. Clemens would, it has been said, be a wealthy man to-day were it not for two business transactions. He invested $100,000 in the Page Compositor Manufacturing company, which was one of the first companies to exploit a mechanical typesetting machine.

After that money was lost Webster & Co. had need of all the humorist's earnings.

It is said that Mr. Clemens latest payment amounted to more than $25,000.

STEAMER ROBBED.

Robbers Broke Into the Strong Room of a Ward Line Ship.

New York, Dec. 20.—The Ward liner City of Washington that sailed from Vera Cruz Decemebr 1 and arrived in this port on Wednesday carried in her strong room $600,000 in Mexican coin. This was not an unusually large shipment of treasure for the Ward line to handle and no one in authority dreamed for danger.

Neverthless during the voyage the strong room built to withstand the attacks of almost everything but dynamite and located so as to be under constant observation, was broken into. Only $3,000 was taken by the robbers but the general impression is that the scheme of the thieves was to seize the entire treasure. Every effort has been made to keep the matter quiet so that the strong force of detectives put upon the case by the company might work to the best advantage. A. G. Smith, the company's secretary, admitted that the robbery had been committed.

PERILS OF THE SEA.

Suffering on a Barren Island When Rescued by a Passing Vessel.

Sandiego, Cal., Dec. 20.—The four-masted British ship Roby, Captain Jones, arrived in port yesterday, 144 days from London. Captain Jones reports that last Thursday morning, when off St. Nicholas island, he was hailed by a crew in distress. He hove to and sent off a lifeboat to the distressed men, who were found to be five sailors and their captain of the sloop Ranger. The latter states that he was engaged in taking supplies from San Pedro to St. Nicholas and that on the night of December 9 the sloop dragged her anchor in a fearful storm and went on the rocks a total wreck, the crew escaping with their lives only. All the men had been without shelter for several days and were suffering greatly for food and nouishment. They were taken on board by Captain Jones and shown every attention.

KILLED A THUG.

Good Shot by a Chicago Policeman, Who is Promoted.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Policeman Wm. J Russell, of the Desplaines street station surprised two highwaymen who were robbing Andrew Young in Van Buren street, near Peoria, at 10 o'clock last night. He killed one of the desperadoes and made his companion a prisoner. Half an hour later Chief Kipley summoned the policeman to a telephone and announced his promotion to the rank of patrol sergeant.

The victim of Russell's bullet is known as Michael Hicks, but this is not thought to be his true name. His companion was John Welzin, who was released just a month ago from Joliet, where he had served two years for a burglary committed in 1895.

BY A RUSSIAN BARK.

Furs Worth One Million Dollars Reach San Francisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—One million dollars is the estimated value of the cargo of the Russian barkentine Bering, which arrived in port Tuesday. The cargo represents the major portion of the business done by the Russian Seals Fur Company during the season just closed. By far the most important item shown on the manifest is the consignment of sealskins. Of these there are 7,000. There are several hundred bearskins, all of the finest quality, and a large number of skins of almost all the animals found in the Arctic regions.

KANSAS CITY FIRE.

Magnificent Auditorium Hotel and Theatre Destroyed.

Kansas City, Dec. 21.—The Auditorium, the largest and finest play-house west of Chicago, and the Auditorium Hotel, one of the most fashionable family hostelries in the city, situated at Holmes and Ninth streets, were gutted by fire that started in the theatre part shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. The guests escaped in safety, though many were compelled to leave the building in their night clothes. The loss of the entire property, which is owned by Alex Frazer, a local business man, will aggregate $450,000. The aggregate insurance amounts to about $85,000. Owing to a high insurance rate, a great deal of the insurance had been allowed to lapse.

The fire originated in an unoccupied room of the sixth floor of the theatre, and resulted from the crossing of electric light wires. It was first noticed by Night Clerk Haak, who turned in an alarm at 1:12. Haak immediately awoke the guests. They included many families and children of all ages, and the greatest confusion ensued. For a time it seemed that the flames would be confined to a single floor, but after it had apparently been gotten under control, it burst forth again and defied all efforts of the firemen. Many of the guests, assured after the first alarm that the fire would not spread, returned to their rooms.

Flames Beyond Control.

Delay in getting a continuous stream on the fire, however, enabled it to get beyond the firemen's control. The flames spread rapidly along the tier of the rooms on the fifth and sixth floors, and soon communicated with the hotel through the small aperatures of the firewall which separated it from the theatre. Once in the hotel, the flames were beyond control. The excitement broke out among the hotel guests afresh, and hurried scrambles to save their personal effects ensued. Everything available was pressed into service as receptacles for the valuables, and before the guests had been ordered from the building a second time the bulk of their belongings had been carried out. More timid ones who had fled from their rooms in their night clothes at the start, were given quarters in a neighboring hotel.

In the theatre, the Woodward stock company, which has been the standing attraction since the reopening of the place last October, managed to save the bulk of its property.

The Auditorium was built in 1886 by Col. George W. Warder at a cost of $350,000. It was named the Warder Grand Opera House, and was opened by Booth and Barrett. After a brief but unsuccessful season, Warder traded the property to Geo. W. Henry, of Chicago. Henry reopened the theatre, but it again failed to pay expenses. In 1896 the National Bank of Commerce purchased the property, and installing John P. Slocum, a well-known Eastern theatrical manager, the house was run for a season in the most approved metropolitan style. After another failure, the bank traded the property last October to Alex Frazer, and the latter leased the property to Paxton & Burgiss. Frazer expended $75,000 in improvements and repairs on both hotel and theatre. Paxton & Burgess presented the Woodward stock company and a list of first-class specialties at seat prices of not over 10 and 25 cents. The plan proved a decided success, and for the first time since its inception the auditorium, which had booked some of the best companies on the road, became a paying property.

JEWS IN PALESTINE

To Be Aided by an Organized Movement in America.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 21.—A certificate of incorporation was filed yesterday with the secretary of state by The American Congregation, the "Pride of Jerusalem." Its principal headquarters is to be in New York city and it is intended to carry on operations throughout the United States and Canada. The object of the organizaton is to aid and assist indigent and needy Jews of all nationalities resident in Jerusalem and Palestine by means of dues, donations and collection from receptacles bearing the Hebrew words "Rabbi Meyer Ball Ha Ness," or an abbreviation thereof, "Rambahn." These receptacles are to be placed in the homes of Jews throughout the United States and Canada and in the synagogues.

The money is to be forwarded to the main organization in Jerusalem called Kollel American Tipeth Jerusalem, and under the supervision of Rabbi Joshua L. Desuin and the United States consul in Jerusalem. It is also proposed to encourage and aid the so-called Zionist movement and to support, furnish and equip pilgrims and pilgrimages from the United States to Jerusalem and Palestine in connection with that movement.

SCORCHED AGAIN.

Grand Forks, North Dakota, Has a Second Bad Fire.

Grand Forks, N. D., Dec. 20.—The business portion of the city was threatened by another fire last night which would have been more destructive than that of Friday when the Hotel Dakotah, the Mercantile Company and Nash Bros'. building were burned.

Shortly after 7 o'clock smoke was seen issuing from the first floor of the big department store f Benner & Begg, and in less than fifteen minutes the building was in flames and the fire had crept into the Stanchfield Clothing house and the A. H. Stone jewelry store in building adjoining. After three hours' work the fire was subdued. The damage to the building and stock of Benner & Begg will be $55,000. Losses to the other firms will be small.

10,000 SHEEP LOST.

Bunch of Texas Animals Wanders Away During a Dense Fog.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 17.—M. O. Murphy, one of the heaviest sheep raisers in Texas, is mourning the loss of a herd of sheep numbering 10,000.

The herd was being moved out of Schleicher county to a new ranch, when a dense fog suddenly settled over the divide and the Mexican herders became bewildered and wandered away from the herd. The animals drifted away and have not yet been found, although searching parties have been out for several days.

One of the Mexican herders perished in the blizzard which followed the fog.

DRAINAGE CANAL.

Chicago's Big Ditch Will Be Finished in 1899.

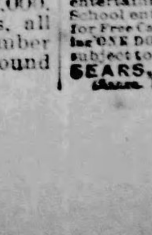
Chicago, Dec. 16.—In his inaugural address President Boldenweck, of the Chicago drainage board made the statement that the big drainage canal which is to connect Lake Michigan with the Illinois river at Joliet will be completed by the autumn of 1899. This is the first time that a definite announcement has been made as to the date of completion of the canal. So far over $25,000,000 has been expened in the work, extending over a period of five years.

WON'T STOP.

Makers of Lamp Chimneys Have No Time for Christmas Shut Down.

Pittsburg, Dec. 20.—Notices have been posted in the majority of the 40 lamp chimney factories of the country that instead of the usual two weeks' shut down there will be only one day of idleness (Christmas) during the holidays this year. The extra work means thousands of dollars in the aggregate to the workmen in wages.

A MONEY MAKER. A HOME ENTERTAINER.



THE EDISON GRAPHOPHONE TALKING MACHINES DOWN TO $10.00. All the latest Music, Songs, Speeches or your own voice. Complete Outfits, consisting of Machine with automatic spring motor which runs two records with one winding, Hearing Tubes, Concert Horn, 12 Musical or Talking Records, large size Show Bills, Admission Tickets, etc., for $15.25. An opportunity to make BIG MONEY EASY by public entertainments. Just the thing for Church and Sunday School entertainments. Anyone can operate them. Send for Free Catalogue of Graphophones, Records, etc. Or by sending ONE DOLLAR we will send the outfit by express C. O. D. subject to examination, balance payable when received. SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

MISS HERBERT'S DEATH.

Threw Herself From a Window and Was Killed.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of ex-Secretary of the Navy Herbert, of Alabama, died at her home in this city this morning as the result of a fall from the third story of her home on New Hampshire avenue in the most fashionable part of the city just off Dupont Circle. The sudden death and tragic features surrounding it were a great shock to the great circle of friends she had made in the course of her life in Washington as the daughter of a popular representative in Congress from the South and later as one of the cabinet circle of ladies when she presided over her father's household during the four years he was secretary of the navy under the last Cleveland administration.

Her death was traceable indirectly to an accident while horseback riding in her native state of Alabama about two months ago. She always had been enthusiastically fond of riding and while paying a visit to her old home started out one day on a horse that had not been well broken. It stumbled and she was thrown violently to the ground sustaining severe injuries to her back. She was brought back to Washington, but recovery was exceedingly slow and it was not until last Sunday that she was able to go out of the house. On that day she went driving for the first time since the accident and Dr. W. W. Johnston, the attending physician, noticed considerable improvement. This morning she was unusually bright and cheerful and chatted animatedly with her married sister, Mrs. Micou, who made her home with the ex-secretary and his daughter. It had been Miss Herbert's custom for several years to take her breakfast in her room and later prepare for the social obligations of the day. Shortly before 10 o'clock she dressed to go down stairs, but instead of descending to the parlor went to the rear room of the third story of her home, whence she fell to the ground sustaining injuries which caused her death before Dr. Johnston could arrive on the scene.

Her father was not at home at the time, being on his way here from Alabama.

The death was reported to police headquarters as a case of suicide due to melancholia and temporary aberration of mind, the result of a long illness, but friends of the family believe that the fall was the result of an accident.

Was a Deliberate Suicide.

This afternoon the following authorized statement was made by a gentleman with all of the facts of the suicide:

"Miss Herbert, at the time of the occurrence, was suffering from acute melancholia. It developed several weeks ago as the final result of injuries received by being thrown from her horse last spring.

"The melancholia was not insanity in the sense of being accompanied by delusions. At the same time there was profound depression, and, as is always the case in this type of disease, there was great danger that suicidal tendencies would develop. For this reason nurses were provided to maintain the closest watchfulness. No suicidal tendency developed, however, until yesterday, when for the first time Miss Herbert made an attempt to get out of the window, but was restrained by the nurse. This led to additional caution, and two nurses alternated in constant watchfulness of the patient.

Early this morning the nurse on duty noticed a small spot of blood on the bed coverings. She inquired what it meant, but the invalid endeavored to pass it by lightly. On making an investigation, however, the nurse found that the under bed-clothes were saturated with blood, and Miss Herbert had severed the artery of her wrist with a pair of scissors. Feeling that the emergency was great, the nurse hastened to the door and called an alarm, and in this momentary withdrawal from the bedside Miss Herbert leaped out and sprang from the window. The plunge was made headforemost, so that she lighted on the top of her head on the asphalt pavement. This injury alone was sufficient to have caused death from concussion, and it was doubtless the immediate cause. Aside from this, a cursory examination indicated that the skull was fractured. The severance of the artery also would have resulted fatally. When the physician reached her Miss Herbert was still breathing, but died about an hour after the leap."

The coroner returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity. As the facts in the case were clear, he decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

WORK IN NEW YORK.

Thousands Are Idle, but More Are Employed Than Last Year.

New York, Dec. 20.—According to the World, of 297,850 workers in this city the records show that 92,075 are out of work. Last year at this time 125,375 were idle.

Ernest Roehn, secretary of the Central Labor Union, estimates that fully 100,000 persons are in enforced idleness now. This estimate is probably very near the truth for if to the 92,000 shown to be idle by the World's figures be added the many clerks, bookkeepers, accountants, etc., who are seeking work, the total would surely reach one hundred thousand.

Comparison shows that so far as the number of unemployed is concerned, the situation is a marked improvement over that of a year ago. More men by the thousands, are at work. This is particularly true of men engaged in the building trades. Within several years there has not been so much building as now. In some instances walking delegates have been made to find a sufficient number of workmen for employers.

The increase of employment has come for the most part to skilled labor. The only striking increase in unskilled labor has been in the ranks of laborers on streets and for contractors.

The same story is told at labor bureaus. The most interesting comparison in this line s offered leaders of the free labor bureau of the association for improvement of the condition of the poor. The books show that in December this year 841 persons secured employment through this bureau, while in December, 1896, but 263 places were secured.

WON'T ACCEPT THE WILL,

By Which She Will Take Her Dower Interest.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Mrs. George M. Pullman has decided to accept her dower interest in the estate of her husband instead of abiding by the terms of the will. According to the will she was given $50,000 in cash, the homestead in Chicago, and the income from $1,250,000 during her life, the sum to revert to the estate after her death. Her acceptance of the will would have made it practically impossible for her to leave anything to the two sons who were practically disinherited by their father. Her third interest as dower gives her $3,000,000 in personal property and a one-half interest for life in the real estate held by Mr. Pullman.

This estimate makes the estate of Mr. Pullman aggregate at least $15,000,000 instead of $7,000,000 as announced immediately after his death.

SURVEYING THE YUKON.

Geodetic Survey Ship Will Make an Important Cruise.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 20.—The United States geodetic survey ship McArthur has been ordered to Alaskan waters and with the opening of spring will head for the Yukon river, there to remain until a series of important surveys have been accomplished and a thorough study of the country made. The McArthur lies on the ways at the Hay & Wright ship yards, receiving repairs but will soon be in readiness for active service.

The McArthur will work up the Alaskan coast taking observations until the mouth of the Yukon is reached. Then a stern wheeler will be brought into use and the crew and officers will go up the Yukon as far as possible carefully surveying the country and preparing charts for a new government map of the district.

R R R
RADWAY'S READY RELIEF
Radway's Ready Relief is Absolutely Indispensable to every well regulated household. It instantly relieves and quickly cures all Colds, Sore Throats, Influenza, Bronchitis, Pneumonia.
RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA,
Frostbites, Chilblains, Headache, Toothache, Asthma,
and all Pains. Internally for Malaria and all Bowel Pains. Sold by all Druggists.

WASHINGTON HESING DEAD.

Sudden Death of One of the Best Known Citizens of Chicago.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 20.—Washington Hesing, one of Chicago's best known German-American citizens, proprietor and editor of the Illinois Staats-Zeitung, the city's leading German newspaper, postmaster of the city under President

WASHINGTON HESING.

Cleveland's last administration, and a candidate for the mayoralty at last spring's election on the gold Democratic or independent ticket, died suddenly Saturday evening.

Mr. Hesing had gone to the Maison Du Lac, an aristocratic boarding house at 235 Michigan avenue, where he and his wife had resided for some time. He was feeling badly and lay down on a couch in his own apartments. About 5 o'clock his wife went to call him and found him dead. It is not known just when he expired, but it is believed he had not long been dead.

Dr. Ely, the Hesing family physician, gave a certificate that the cause of death was asthenia or heart failure. Mr. Hesing contracted inflammatory rheumatism during a tour in Russia, eight years ago and has ever since been troubled with weakness of his heart, his doctor said. He warned his patient against violent exertion, but Mr. Hesing laughed at his fears.

Mr. Hesing was president of the Press club. He was born at Cincinnati, May 14, 1849. His parents came to Chicago in 1854, and he was educated in the local grammar and High school. His father, Anton C. Hesing founded the Staats-Zeitung, and had his son take a classical course at Yale and later on he was sent to the German universities where he studied political economy, international law, science of government and German literature. He never held public office except that of member of the board of education and the postmastership. He married Miss Henrietta C. Weir, of Boston, in 1870. They had no children.

PROSPERITY.

Big Window Glass Factories to Be Started in New Jersey.

Bridgeton, N. J., Dec. 20.—Fires were put under the furnaces to-day in the Cohansey, Cumberland More-Jones window glass factories near here and it is expected that the works will start up in a week or two probably on January 2. It is expected that 2,000 persons now idle will be given employment.

Suit for Embezzled Money.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 21.—The state of Nebraska, by the attorney general, has filed civil suit against ex-Treasurer Bartley and his bondsmen for $335,000. This is the amount which Bartley is charged with embezzling from the public school fund during his first two years in office, and is only one of a number of simlar suits.

Loaded With Sovereigns.

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 21.—The Oceanic Steamship Co.'s Alameda, Capt. Van Ottondorf, sailed yesterday via Auckland, for San Francisco. She carries about 100,000 sovereigns (about $500,000).

Markets and Crops.

TRADE REPORTS.

The Payments Through Banks Larger Than in 1892.

New York, Dec. 18.—R. G. Dun & Co's., weekly review of trade says:

Close to its annual holiday the business of the year is surprisingly large. Payments through banks are again 2.5 per cent larger than in 1892, heretofore the year of greatest prosperity; the production of iron and woolens and boots and shoes is larger than ever before, exports eclipse all past records and failures for two weeks have been the smallest for corresponding weeks in five years.

The treasury receipts show a steady increase for the first half of December over previous months, both in customs and internal revenue and heavy payments to government on Union Pacific account caused but slight stringency in money markets, with preparations for large cancellation of bonds. The most weighty news of the week is the increase of merchandise exports in November, to $116,630,290, the excess of exports in four months being $229,212,401, while in half of December exports are nearly as large and imports $2,500,000 smaller than last year, when the excess of imports was $58,205,366. Probably all records are surpassed by exports for this year, which have been $974,600,000 in eleven months, and the excess over imports in five months has probably exceeded $289,000,000.

The output for pig iron December 1, was the greatest ever known, 226,024 tons. Bessemer declined in the face of such production ten cents and grey forge 25 cents at Pittsburg. The demand was on the whole greater and unusual structural contracts for the season were placed.

Wheat just now the backbone of foreign relations, and Atlantic exports, flour included, was 7,880,942 bushels against 5,413,677 last year while receipts rose to 12,606,122 bushels, against 6,625,382 last year. The price gained a fraction in spite of speculative decline in Chicago. Corn exports continue to exceed last years, in two weeks 6,326,894 bushels against 5,074,625 last year, which is a particularly significant figure. The prices rose but a fraction and receipts in two weeks were 8,023,031 bushels against 5,449,181 last year.

The cotton manufacturer is in difficulty, due to production last year far in excess of demand and in partial transfer of the demand to southern mills.

The demand for woolen goods is increasing and some mills are in the market providing for a greater production, though most are still waiting, and the wool market is remarkably dull, sales at the three chief points being 15,307,100 pounds against 18,100 last year.

While prices are said to be held without change, manufacturers are hunting for bargains and foreign wool in considerable quantity is coming this way.

Failures for the week have been 328 in the United States against 387 last year and 28 in Canada against 41 last year.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE.

Toledo, O., Dec. 21, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Dec. 21.	Dec. 14.
U. S. 4's (enw) coupons	120	120½
U. S. 4's (new) registered	120⅛	120½
U. S. 5's coupons	114⅝	114½
U. S. 5's registered	114⅝	114½
U. S. 4's coupons	114⅝	114½
U. S. 4's registered	112⅝	113
U. S. 2's registered	99½	99½
Pacific 6's of '98	102⅝	102⅝

Condition of the Grain Market at the Close To-Day.

The markets for wheat opened ⅛c to ¼c up for December and ⅜@¼c lower for May. The May future being the speculative month, it is more of an indicator of the course of the markets than December. May was strongly affected at Chicago by May receipts, there being an addition of 400,000 bushels over yesterday. There was quite a number of selling orders. Trade in May was quite active. Prices eased for a time, but improved on light Northwestern receipts, but 290 cars, as compared with 582 last week and 350 a year ago. Toward noon there was less firmness. Latest sales showed the December and May unchanged at Chicago as compared with the preceding day, and ¼c up for December and ⅛c off for May at New York.

This afternoon heavy exports to Germany and France were reported, but the bulls lost their nerve, and the markets closed lower and weak. In May wheat a large business was done. The fact of the situation seems to be that things have settled down to a contest between Leiter and Armour, of Chicago. Wheat on its merits, under a good European demand, should be good property, but it is best to inquire whether or not the trade is running in a legitimate channel at present. Chicago is the center of a contest which is being watched with interest by grain men. There is no excitement there. At the close to-day December wheat at Chicago was on the same basis as yesterday, and May was ⅜c lower. At New York December was ⅜c lower and May 1⅛c off, and at St. Louis December was down ¼c and May ¼c.

Export clearances of wheat to-day, 247,102 bushels; flour, 21,427 bbls.; or wheat and flour as wheat, 343,044 bushels.

Receipts in the Northwest, 174,498 bushels of wheat.

New York reports 135,000 bushels No. 2 red sold to San Francisco, and 600,000 bushels to Hamburg, and there is also a rumor that the Chicago bulls took ocean freight for 1,000,000 bushels.

December oats at Chicago, 26⅛c, high 26⅜c, low, 26⅛c, close 26⅜c; May, 22⅝c, high 22⅝c, low 22⅛c, close 22⅜c asked.

Pork at Chicago for December, $7.60; May, $8.70; high, $8.75, low $8.60, close $7.62.

Lard at Chicago for December, $4.40; May, $4.62 open and high, low and close $4.52.

Corn opened easy at a decline of ⅛@⅛c, but afterward there was fair buying and prices firmed a little. At the close prices were weak with wheat, at a decline of ⅜@⅛c. At Chicago December corn opened at 26¼; high, 26⅜; low, 26⅛; close, 26⅛; May, 29⅞; high, 29⅞; low and close, 29⅝. At New York December corn was worth 32⅝ nominal; May, 34⅜; close, 34⅜ asked.

Prices of wheat to-day:

Dec.	Opened.	Higest.	Lowest.	Close.
Toledo	96	96	95¼	95¼
Chicago	100¼	101	99¾	100
New York	101½	102	a100⅝	a100⅝
St. Louis	b98	100	98	100

At Chicago May wheat opened at 93⅝c; highest, 94⅛c; lowest, 93⅛c; close, 93⅝c asked; July, 83⅜c; highest, 84⅛c; lowest, 83⅛c; close, 83⅜c asked. At New York May wheat opened at 95c, rose to 95⅝c, fell to 93⅞c, and closed at 94c asked. At St. Louis May wheat opened at 96⅝c, rose to 97⅜c, and closed at 96⅝@96⅛c.

Primary receipts of wheat, 613,000 bushels; same time last year, 283,000. Shipments, 149,000 bushels; same time last year, 191,000. Receipts of corn, 504,000 bushels; same time last year, 589,000. Shipments, 203,000 bushels; same time last year, 137,000.

Col. Conley, of Schwartz, Dupee & Co., wires Cronenberg: This newspaper talk about Armour is silly nonsense, and is nauseating in the extreme. Mr. Armour was largely short of December wheat at low prices and he was unable to cover his contracts in the Chicago market and in order to extricate himself sent purchasing agents to the Northwest to buy enough wheat to cover his shortage. If he gets out without loss he will be a fortunate man. On the other hand, Leiter is long five to ten million December wheat and will receive and pay for all that is delivered. If there are any who cannot deliver, they will have to walk up and settle. This is the situation in a nutshell, and nothing more can be said of the deal. There is no excitement here in Chicago.

Closing Paris cable: Wheat 10 centimes lower to 5 centimes higher; flour, steady to 5 centimes higher.

Antwerp wheat, 12½ centimes higher.

Berlin not quoted.

Liverpool wheat closed steady and ¼d lower to ⅛d higher than previous close.

The Close at Toledo—Wheat Lower.

Wheat 1c lower for cash and future delivery at the Toledo Produce Exchange, as compared with yesterday. Trade rather dull and prices weak at the close.

No. 2 soft red wheat, 96, 96½, then 95¼; No. 3 soft red, 91½, then 90¼.

December wheat, 96@95½, latter to close; May, 95¼, 95⅜, and finally 94⅞.

Corn—A Little Higher, Steady.

Corn was a fraction higher, but steady today; No. 2 mixed corn, 25½; No. 3, 25; No. 4, 26¼; No. 2 December, 25¾; May, 30; No. 3 yellow, 29.

Oats—Dull, steady; No. 2 mixed, 22c; No. 2 May, 23½c; No. 2 white, 25c; No. 3 white, 24c.

Rye—½c lower, dull, steady; No. 2, 46½c; No. 3, 44½c.

Clover Seed—Fairly active, steady; prime, cash and December, $3.27½; January, $3.25@3.27½; March, $3.22½; No. 2 seed closed at $3.10, and buckhorn at $3.00. Receipts, 758 bags; shipments, 859.

Toledo Produce Market.

Trade fairly good to-day. Butter steady; supply fair. Eggs in good demand for fresh, at quotations. Storage eggs are plentiful. Cheese in demand for best quality. Vegetables steady. In dressed meats quotations are not changed as the supply is equal to demand. As high as $5 per 100 pounds was asked yesterday, but was not paid. Poultry is a little firmer.

Butter—Finest Elgin creamery, 22c; Ohio and Michigan creamery, 20@21c; dairy butter, 16@18c.

Eggs—Strictly fresh, 20@21c; fall packed, 18c, storage eggs, 14@16c.

Cheese—Full cream, best grades, lb., 10@11c; part skim, 8½c; full skim, 6c.

Vegetables—Potatoes, bu., 60c; sweet potatoes, Jerseys, bbl., $3.75, bushel $1.25; Baltimores, bbl., $2.25@2.50, bushel, 80c; carrots, bu., 20c; turnips, bu., 20c; parsnips, bu., 35c; rutabagas, bu., 30@35c; celery, doz. bunches, 15@35c; lettuce, lb., 5c; squashes, lb., 1c; beans, bu., $1; cabbages, dozen, 20@40c; beets, bu., 25c; pop corn, bu., 50c; onions, bu., 60@70c; Spanish onions, $1.25 for 40-lb. crates.

Poultry—Chickens, live, 6½c; dressed, 7c; old fowls, lb., 6c; dressed, 6c; turkeys, live, 8c; dressed, 9c; ducks, live, 7c; dressed, 7½c.

Fruits—Apples, bbl., $2.85@3.75, bu., $1.20; cranberries, bbl., $7.40, quart, 9c; oranges, box, $4.00; lemons, box, $2.50@3.25.

Dressed Meats—Hogs, $4.00@4.25; calves, 7@7½c; mutton, 5½@6½c; lambs, 6½@7c.

Lard—No. 1 kettle, cans of 3, 5 and 10 pounds, 7c, 50 pounds, 6c.

Hay—Car lots, timothy, choice, per ton, $9; No. 1 hay, ton, $8; No. 2 hay, $6@7.

Smoked Meats—Hams, sugar-cured, heavy, per lb., 9c; light hams, lb., 10c; mess pork, bbl., $8.00, short mess, $9; short clear, $10; breakfast bacon, clear, 10c, bologna sausage, 6c, pork sausage, lb., 6c.

Timothy seed, $1.50@1.75, according to quality.

Straw—Wheat straw, car lots, per ton, $4; oat straw, $5; bright rye, $5.

Feed—Per ton, bran, $11; middlings, $12; chop feed, $14; No. 2, $13; coarse middlings, $12.

Hides—Green, No. 1 coarse and light hides, 7½@8c; No. 2's, 6½@7c; heavy steers, No. 1, 8c; bulls and No. 2's, 6½@7c; green calf, No. 1, 11½c; No. 2's, 9c; kip, No. 1, 9c; No. 2's, 7c; cured No. 1 hides, 9c; No. 2's, 8c; No. 1 calf, cured, 12c; No. 2's, 10c; sheep pelts, 25c@$1.00.

Furs—Muskrat, each, 2@14c; raccoon, 10@80c; Mink, 25c@$1.00; skunk, 10@80c; fox, red, 25c@$1.25; gray fox, 25@75c.

Rock Salt—Ton, $7.50; pork packing salt, 200-lb. bags, 80c; Eastern salt, bbl., $1.00; Michigan salt, bbl., 75c.

Flour—Spring patent, bbl., $5.50@6.00; winter patents, $5.50@6.00; winter straight, $4.50@5.00.

Petroleum—Prime white, Ohio test, 7½c; eocene, 10½c; stove gasoline, 9½c; 63 test naphtha, 7½c.

Tallow—Per lb., 7@3½c.

Beeswax—Per lb., 20@22c.

Wool—Coarse and medium, unwashed, 15@18c; washed, 20@22c; fine unwashed, 12@14c; washed, 15@18c.

Grain and Produce.

New York, Dec. 21.—Butter—Receipts 8,251 packages; western creamery, 15@22c; Elgins, 22c; factory, 12@17c. Cheese—Receipts 2,319 packages; large, white, September, 8½c; small, white, September, 9@9¼c; large, colored, September, 8½c; small, colored, September, 9@9¼c; large, late made, 7⅜@7¾c; small, late made, 8¼@8½c; light skims, [illegible] 6½c; part skims, 4½@5½c; full skims, 3@4c. Eggs—Receipts 4,118 packages, state and Pennsylvania, 21@24c; western, 20@23c. Sugar—Raw strong; fair refining, 3 9-16c; centrifugal, 96 degrees test, 4 1-16c; refined firm; granulated, 5¼c. Coffee steady.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Close.—Wheat—December, $1.00, old, 88⅛c; January, 94¼c; May, 93⅝c; July, 83⅜c; September, 78⅝c. Corn—December, 26⅛c; January, 26⅜c; May, 29⅝c [illegible]; July, 30⅛c. Oats—December, [illegible]; May, 22⅝c. Pork—December, $7.60; January, $7.62; May, $8.87. Lard—December, [illegible]; January, $4.52; May, $4.70. Ribs—December and January, $4.40; May, $4.55. Barley—Cash, No. 2, 26@42c. Rye—Cash, 46¼c; December, 46¾c; May, 49c. Flax seed—Cash, $1.18; Northwest, $1.21½; December, $1.19; May, $1.21. Timothy—Cash, $2.65; March, $2.80.

Live Stock.

East Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 21.—(Elrick Bro.'s special report to The Blade.) Cattle—Receipts 2 cars; market steady. Hogs—Receipts 35 cars; all grades, $3.60. Sheep and lambs—Receipts 10 cars; market steady.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 21.—(Bower & Bower's special report to The Blade.) Hogs—Receipts 25 cars; market opened weak and a shade lower later owing to strong feeling elsewhere; trade was active to 2½c higher; early sales $3.50; later, $3.52½, closing firm. Sheep—Receipts light, demand good. Cattle—Good cattle strong; common cow stuff dull.

Kansas City, Dec. 21.—Cattle—Market steady; Texas steers, $3.40@4.00; Texas cows, $2.25@3.00; native steers, $2.50@5.00; native cows and heifers, $1.50@4.25; stockers and feeders, $2.80@4.50; bulls, $2.75@3.60. Hogs—Market steady; bulk of sales, $3.35@3.45; heavies and packers, $3.30@3.47½; mixed, $3.35@3.47½; lights, $3.25@3.40; Yorkers, $3.35@3.40; pigs, $3.00@3.25. Sheep—Market steady; lambs, $3.60@5.45; muttons, $3.15@4.40.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Hogs—Receipts 43,000; left over, 1,194; market active and steady to shade higher; light, $3.40@3.55; mixed, $3.40@3.55; heavy, $3.30@3.55; rough, $3.30@3.35. Cattle—Receipts, 5,000; market steady; beeves, $3.75@5.40; cows and heifers, $1.80@4.50; Texas steers, $3.00@4.20; stockers and feeders, $3.00@4.25. Sheep—Receipts 12,000; market steady. Yesterday's official: Hogs—receipts 36,058, shipments 4,642; cattle, receipts 14,178, shipments 3,294; sheep and lambs, receipts 19,037, shipments 2,258. The few choice to fancy sheep and lambs offered sold readily at strong prices, while the poorer grades ruled weak to 10c lower. Some extra fine 244-lb. holiday sheep sold at $5, with $4.75 the next highest, and only one other lot above $4.50. Common to fancy lambs sold at $3.90@6.15, bulk $5.15@5.75. Poor to good native sheep sold at $2.75@4.40, and fair to choice westerns at $3.60@4.45.

THE DAY ON WALL STREET.

Close of the Stock Market at New York This Afternoon.

New York, Dec. 21.—Changes at the [illegible] of the stock market to-day were decidedly irregular, the majority of stocks showing small losses. Sugar led the decline with a loss of ⅝. Trading was lacking in animation.

The apathy of the speculation invited attacks by the bear faction which were directed against the high priced specialties. Sugar and Consolidated Gas receded about a point and People's Gas, Western Union and New Jersey Central sharp fractions. Some of the railroad shares also displayed decided weakness. Northern Pacific preferred, which was traded in ex-div. of one per cent, lost a point.

There was abatement of the selling movement during the second hour. The [illegible], which have been aggressively strong of late were offered freely and New Jersey Central fell to 93⅞. Sugar steadied at intervals but the higher prices brought renewed offerings which drove the price down again. Railroad shares were unusually quiet, but fell to a slight extent. Flint & Pere Marquette preferred broke 7 points to 42. Sales of stocks to noon, 92,840 shares. Bonds were dull.

New York, Dec. 21.—Money on call nominally at 4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 3½@4½ per cent. Sterling exchange heavy with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.84⅞@4.85 for demand and at $4.81¾@4.82¼ for 60 days. Posted rates, $4.82@4.83½ and $4.86@4.86½. Commercial bills, $4.80@4.81½. Silver certificates, 56⅝@57¼c. Bar silver, 56⅞c. Mexican dollars, 45⅜c.

Corrected daily by Kuhn & Co.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Del. & Hudson	112½			112½
Jersey Central	95⅝	95⅞	94⅞	94⅞
Reading	22⅝	22⅝	22⅛	22⅜
Tenn. Coal and Iron	24¾	24¾	24¼	24¼
Atchison	13	13	12⅞	12⅞
Atchison pfd.	30⅝	30⅝	30	30
C. B. & Q.	99⅝	99⅝	98⅝	98⅞
Missouri Pacific	33⅝	33⅝	32⅞	33
Northwest	120⅝	121	120⅝	120⅞
*North. Pacific pfd.	58⅝	59	58⅝	58⅞
Omaha	78⅝	78⅝	78	78
Rock Island	90⅝	90⅝	90	90⅛
St. Paul	95	95⅛	94⅝	94⅞
Chicago Gas	96⅝	96⅝	95⅝	95⅝
Sugar	138⅝	139	137⅝	138
Amer. Tobacco	86	86	85⅝	85⅝
Louis. & Nash.	57	57	56⅝	56⅝
Manhattan	104⅝	104⅝	103⅞	104
K. T. pfd.	35⅞	36	35⅝	35⅝
Southern Ter.	32⅝	32⅝	32	32
Pacific Mail	29⅝			29
Western Union	88⅝	88⅝	88	88
Wabash pfd.	18			18
C. C. C. & I.	35	35	34⅝	34⅝
Canada Southern	56	56	55⅞	55⅞
New York Central	107⅞	107⅞	107	107

*Northern Pacific preferred ex-div. 1 per c.

Trade.

There was a quieting in the wholesale trade of the country during the past week, as the annual stock-taking period approaches. There has been an enlarged inquiry for steel in various forms. The business in pig iron was heavy.

The Oil Market.

Tiona oil	$0.7[illegible]
Pennsylvania oil	[illegible]
Barnesville oil	[illegible]
Corning oil	[illegible]
New Castle oil	[illegible]
North Lima oil	[illegible]
South Lima oil	[illegible]
Indiana oil	[illegible]

Louisville Tobacco Market.

Louisville, Dec. 20.—There has been an active and satisfactory market all week. There were heavy offering with firm prices. Both old and new burley show improvement. Quality of new excellent. Old was not offered largely. Dark tobaccos sold well all week. Official quotations are:

1896 CROP.

Red Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	$ [illegible] 4.5[illegible]
Trash (sound)	4.50@ 6.0[illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	8.00@ 9.0[illegible]
Good lugs	9.00@10.0[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	9.00@11.0[illegible]
Common leaf	11.00@14.0[illegible]
Medium leaf	14.00@17.0[illegible]
Good leaf	17.00@2[illegible]
Fine and selections	2[illegible]

Colory Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	$ [illegible]
Trash (sound)	4.50@ [illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	[illegible]
Good lugs	[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	[illegible]
Common leaf	11.00@14.[illegible]
Medium leaf	14.00@17.[illegible]
Good leaf	17.00@2[illegible]
Fine and selections	[illegible]

1897 CROP.

Red Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	$ 2.00@ 3.[illegible]
Trash (sound)	4.00@ 5.[illegible]
Common lugs	5.50@ 7.0[illegible]
Medium lugs	7.00@ 8.5[illegible]
Good lugs	8.50@ 9.5[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	8.50@ 9.5[illegible]
Common leaf	9.00@10.00
Medium leaf	10.00@13.00
Good leaf	13.00@16.00
Fine and selections	16.00@2[illegible]

Colory Burley.

Trash (green or mixed)	$ 4.00@ 5.5[illegible]
Trash (sound)	5.00@ 6.[illegible]
Common lugs	6.00@ 7.0[illegible]
Medium lugs	7.00@ 8.5[illegible]
Good lugs	8.50@ 9.5[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	9.00@10.00
Common leaf	10.00@12.00
Medium leaf	12.00@14.00
Good leaf	14.00@16.00
Fine and selections	20.00

Wool.

Dun's Review says of the past week's wool market: "The collapse of speculative excitement has left the Boston wool market extremely dull, and it is openly declared to be the lowest market in the world for foreign wool, notwithstanding the fact that several thousand bales of some grades have been largely bought abroad and are on the way hither. For most grades the demand is very small, although there are more inquiries by manufacturers, but it is said that no concessions are made in price. No considerable buying is reported by mills there or at other markets, and the aggregate sales of all kinds have been in the three weeks only 15,307,100 lbs., against 18,100,100 last year, 17,179,[illegible] in 1895 and 16,504,100 in the same weeks of 1892."

From Bradstreet's: "The market is quiet as a whole, but prices maintain a fair amount of steadiness. The strength of the market abroad is sufficient to keep values very firm here, as there is yet considerable margin between the selling price of wool and the cost to import. Advices from Melbourne quote that market firm, with the sale postponed over to January 10. Purchases for America in Melbourne are estimated at about 25,000 bales thus far, while about 25,000 bales will be the probable purchases. Fleece wools are held about the same, but sell slow. Quarter bloods are dull, the best demand of late being for the finer wools. This is true of both foreign and domestic wools. The movement in territory wools is slow, but prices are quoted on about the scoured basis of 50 cents for fine medium and fine, with medium at 42 cents. Cape and Montevideo wools are firm. Carpet wools dull."

New York Cotton Market.

New York, Dec. 21.—The cotton market opened dull but firm with prices 1 point lower to 1 point higher. Following the call trading became more active and prices advanced [illegible] points on buying by local shorts, foreign representatives and commission houses, despite estimates of 80,000 bales for to-day.

Small investment buying orders were numerous and added to the general support of the market which at 11 o'clock ruled steady at a net gain of 1@2 points. Sales to that time were 45,000 bales including 2,000 bales on the first call.

Futures opened dull but firm; sales [illegible] bales. January, $5.72; February, [illegible]; March, $5.80; April, $5.85; May, $5.[illegible]; June, $5.94; July, $5.99; August, $6.04; September, $6.02; October, $6.06; December, $5.7[illegible].

Spot cotton opened steady and unchanged; middling uplands, 5⅞c; middling gulf, 6⅛c.

Spot closed steady; middling uplands, 5⅞c; middling gulf, 6⅛c; sales 600 bales.